

## 7 bodies found in Nile boat tragedy

CAIRO (R) — Divers have retrieved at least seven bodies from the cabins of a capsized Nile River boat and were searching on Saturday for some 14 more missing foreign tourists and Egyptian crew, diplomats said. "Frogmen are searching the ship under the water level, cabin by cabin," Czech Ambassador Bratislav Vachala told Reuters. The boat, carrying mostly Czech and Slovak tourists, tipped over in a freak storm on the Nile about 580 kilometres south of Cairo on Thursday. They were making the popular trip from Aswan to Luxor, passing by the pharaonic temples of Kom Ombo, Edfu and Esna. An Interior Ministry statement said the bodies of six foreigners had been retrieved from the grounded Amira Jihan cruise boat. It listed four Czechs and two Slovaks but did not mention one Polish woman, Iren Szendzioloz, who also died, according to a Polish diplomat.

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## Abbas briefs King on status of negotiations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday was briefed on the recent developments on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on Israeli deployment in Hebron by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas. The King, during the meeting held at the residence of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinians. Mr Abbas said he was optimistic that an agreement on Hebron would be reached soon.

## Syria: Economic ties with Jordan are improving

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Syrian Deputy Prime Minister For Economic Affairs Salim Yassin said Saturday Jordanian-Syrian economic relations were improving and that trade between the two sides was also on the rise. Mr Yassin, who was addressing a press conference, called for further improvement in bilateral ties.

## Hamas member killed while working on bomb

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian was killed in the West Bank Saturday when a bomb he was working on exploded, an Israeli military official said. Mohammad Kneil, 34, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), was torn to pieces by the explosion in the back of his house in Kabatiya in the north of the West Bank. The man was transferred to a hospital in Jenin, where he was declared dead.

## Hizbollah accuses Israel of bomb attack

TYRE (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbollah said on Saturday that it had foiled an attempt by Israel to kill one of its military leaders with a bomb planted in his car. A spokesman for the group told AFP that "an explosive of 10 kilograms of TNT planted by Israeli commandos" was discovered in the unidentified official's car in the village of Sammayeh, a Hizbollah stronghold near Tyre. Hizbollah fighters evacuated the population and attempted to defuse the bomb, but it was finally exploded without causing any casualties, the spokesman said.

## 2 sentenced to death in Algiers

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian court has sentenced two people to death in absentia and jailed 31 others for killing former prime minister, Kasdi Merbah in 1993, APS news agency reported Saturday. During the three-day trial at Tizi Ouzou, which ended Friday, 47 suspects were in the box but two others were still at large. The court handed down 31 prison sentences of between 12 and three years. Sixteen defendants were acquitted. Merbah was prime minister in 1988-89. He was killed, aged 55, by an armed group at Bordj Al Bahri in August 1993. His brother, his son and two bodyguards also died in the attack.

# Israel seeks to maintain status quo — Kabariti

Prime minister visits Baqaa camp, reaffirms Jordan's continued support for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti accused Israel on Saturday of impeding an agreement on its long-overdue withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron. Israel "is still manoeuvring to change its agreement (with the Palestinians), to consolidate the status quo (in the Palestinians territories), and about the struggle of a free people that has lasted for a century," Mr. Kabariti said.

Addressing a public rally held at Baqaa refugee camp, where he inaugurated a new premises for

Yarmouk Sports Club, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan would continue to support the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Palestinian people in their struggle. "Jordan's commitment to support the Palestinian brothers is a principled stand for Jordan and its leadership," added the prime minister. The Kingdom stood firmly behind "the struggle of the Palestinian leadership in the face of (Israel's) attempts to amend the agreement on the withdrawal from Hebron and the rest of the

Palestinian lands," he said. "We are determined to continue our support for the Palestinians in their drive to determine their future and to establish their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," Mr. Kabariti said. Noting that the negotiations on Hebron have been dragging for long, the prime minister said: "The aim of procrastination is to drive despair into the heart of the Palestinian people but the Palestinians will not despair. The (Israeli) plan

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Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Saturday opens a new premises for Yarmouk Sports Club at the Baqaa refugee camp (Petra photo)

## Panels to expedite release of prisoners under Royal amnesty

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has set up two committees to study the cases of detainees who could be freed under an amnesty declared by His Majesty King Hussein and the process would not take "long," government officials said Saturday.

Addressing the press after a regular cabinet session, Justice Minister Abdul Karim Dughmi said a ministerial committee would lay down the criteria that qualify prisoners for release under the Royal amnesty announced last week.

A technical committee will study every case individually on the basis of the criteria laid down by the ministerial panel, Mr. Dughmi said.

The minister declined to give any estimated number of prisoners who qualify for release but said the committees will study the case of about 1,200.

Many who have served part of their sentences, except in cases of capital crimes, are expected to be freed, while convicted of undermining national security would not qualify for the amnesty. Mr. Dughmi said those under trial and violators of traffic regulations would also not be covered by the amnesty.

The ministerial committee will group the minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, the minister of state for prime ministry affairs and the minister of administrative development. The technical committee will include the secretary general of the Interior Ministry, the Amman prosecutor general, the Amman governor and representatives of the Public Security Department, the military security department and the General Intelligence Department.

The recommendations of the technical committee will be presented to the ministerial panel, which in turn will present them to King Hussein. Mr. Dughmi told the briefing at the prime ministry. "The process will not take long," he said.

During Saturday's session, the Council of Ministers listened to a report by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb about the outcome of last week's Middle East and North Africa economic conference held in Cairo and the Jordanian delegation's activities there.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also briefed the council on the meetings the Jordanian delegation held with the Israeli team on prospects of expanding the scope of duty-free trade between the two sides as well as trade between Jordan and the West Bank.

Also addressing the press briefing, Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said Jordan welcomed a decision by U.S. president to name Jordan as a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally of the United States.

He described the decision as very important as it would help modernise the Jordanian Armed Forces adding that the decision was also significant

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## Mubarak warns Israel against another war

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has warned Israel against launching a war with Arab states saying that it would be making "the biggest mistake of its life."

"Don't believe all the talk about a war between Israel and Syria or a new Israeli-Arab war," Mr. Mubarak told the editors of Egyptian dailies in remarks published Saturday.

"Israel would be making the biggest mistake of its life if it launched another war because we would not stand by with our arms crossed and the situation could deteriorate in a dangerous way," he said. "The choice of peace is irreversible," the Egyptian leader continued. "There is no alternative to peace and the continuation of the peace process based on the principles of the Madrid conference and respect for agreements already reached" between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Egyptian leader has urged Israel on a number of occasions to carry out the troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron which was due to have been completed in March.

## Assad: Peace for land

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday expressed his desire to work towards peace while preserving Arab lands and their rights. "Peace allows the creation of an adequate climate for economic and social development and we are struggling for a peace which must be fair and total, without U.S. selling off even an inch of our land nor any of our rights," he said in a message published Saturday by the Syrian press.



Israeli soldiers patrol the market in central Hebron on Saturday as Palestinian boys wait for business with their push carts. Additional Israeli security forces have been deployed in the West Bank town prior to an expected long-delayed Israeli troop redeployment (Reuters photo)

## Arafat accuses Israel of pursuing policy of extremism, delays to undermine peace deals

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat, marking the eighth anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence, accused Israel on Saturday of pursuing a policy of "extremism and delays" to undermine existing peace agreements.

Six weeks of Israeli-Palestinian talks over a long-delayed Israeli troop pullout from most of the West Bank town of Hebron have produced no agreement. Other Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been frozen since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in June.

"The Israeli government is trying to deny the whole peace process, and tries to destroy it through its policy of extremism and delays which it practices in an attempt to abandon records signed in Cairo, Washington and in Taba," Mr. Arafat said.

Meanwhile, Israel announced Saturday it would further ease a closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and allow thousands of Palestinian labourers, married and over the age of 30, to reach jobs in Israel.

At 4:00 a.m. (0200 GMT) Sunday, 8,250 workers and merchants from the West

Bank and another 7,250 from the Gaza Strip would be allowed to enter Israel, the Israeli army spokesman's office said.

Last week Israel issued permits to some 35,000 Palestinians to enter Israel.

Most Palestinian workers have been barred from entering Israeli territory since a series of suicide bombing attacks killed 63 people in February and March. Before then, 60,000 Palestinians had permits to work in Israel.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians celebrated for the third consecutive day the statehood declaration made by Mr. Arafat in Algiers on Nov. 15, 1988.

The state won recognition by more than 100 countries. "Concerning redeployment from Hebron, Israel's government is facing us with its intransigence and delaying tactics," Mr. Arafat said in a speech broadcast by Palestinian radio and television.

"In the beginning, they tried to renegotiate the whole issue, but we flatly rejected that on the basis that it constitutes a setback to the agreements and a dangerous, unacceptable precedent."

Mr. Netanyahu wants to alter the accord signed by the previous Labour government. He demands more safeguards

for 420 militant Jewish settlers in heavily guarded enclaves in the middle of Hebron's 120,000 Arab residents.

Mr. Arafat said Mr. Netanyahu's policies were endangering the entire peace process.

Mr. Arafat wants the Hebron pact implemented as signed but said he was willing to discuss implementation of the accord.

"We accepted to discuss some practical security details which would secure redeployment in a better way, but every time we reached good results that would start the process, they backtracked and pushed things back to square one," he said.

"The declaration of independence was not a radio statement, it was the first step and the first foothold over the beloved soil of our homeland, over our beloved Palestine, with Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state, and that's the way it is whether they (Israelis) like it or not," he said.

The night skies of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were lit by fireworks and thousands of Palestinians flocked to events marking independence. On Saturday Palestinian troops and police paraded in such gathering points as

Bethlehem's Manger Square. Palestinians also appealed to the United States and Russia to use their influence to get Israel to conclude an accord on the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron.

Washington and Moscow must "assume their responsibilities before the situation on the ground becomes uncontrollable because of Israeli obstinacy," the Palestinian National Authority and the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said in a statement after a weekly meeting.

The two bodies reiterated their refusal to renegotiate the accord on the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Hebron, according to the statement published by the Palestinian agency WAFA.

"(Israel) is putting the negotiations taking place on Hebron in a continuing crisis because of its insistence on negotiating the accord rather than respecting it to the letter," the statement said.

The two organisations also appealed to the international community to ask the Israeli government to lift its closure of the Palestinian territories, saying the policy was threatening "even the existence" of the peace process.

## 10% cut planned in prices of bread, official discloses

By Dominic Evans  
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan plans to cut bread prices by 10 per cent by the end of the year, cashing in on a weak world grain market to soften price hikes in August which sparked unrest, an official said on Saturday.

Adnan Odeh, director of trade at the Ministry of Supply, said the government aimed to cut the price of bread, the main food for millions of poorer Jordanians, by 20 fils to 160 fils per kilo, or 200 fils for bread made from higher quality flour.

"We would expect prices to stay at this level throughout next year," Mr. Odeh told Reuters. He said the proposed prices, yet to be formally endorsed by the government, were recommended by a ministry study.

The price cut could be implemented as soon as

wheat which Jordan bought in an international tender last month found its way into local markets, Mr. Odeh added.

Jordan, following advice from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), virtually doubled bread prices overnight in August to slash its bill for subsidies as world grain prices reached record highs.

Its modest compensation offer to the most needy failed to prevent the worst outbreak of unrest in the impoverished south since riots in 1989, also sparked by price rises.

King Hussein declared a general amnesty on Tuesday for detainees arrested over the protests and instructed Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti to review bread prices in light of the lower grain costs.

Jordan bought 150,000 tonnes of wheat last month which is due to be delivered in three separate lots in

November, December and January. At \$164.90 per tonne, it was 40 per cent cheaper than prices just six months ago.

Mr. Odeh said the government could not pass on to consumers all the savings in purchase costs because it still had to pay for wheat storage in silos, transport from the southern port of Aqaba and distribution around the country.

Officials say the government, as part of its wider overhaul of the subsidies programme, is trying to encourage private sector traders to import grain.

But most Jordanian importers have no storage or distribution facilities to compete with the government and say they are unwilling to launch into major purchases until the government clarifies its plans for liberalisation of imports and sales prices.

## Iraq: U.S. splitting hairs over sanctions

ROME (R) — Iraq said on Saturday it had destroyed all weapons that needed to be destroyed and accused the United States of deliberately seeking to prolong U.N.-imposed trade sanctions against Baghdad.

"We believe we have abided by all our commitments to the (U.N.) Security Council," Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohiaddin Ma'ruf said at the World Food Summit.

He told a news conference there was no reason for the sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, to continue and said they had driven his country into poverty. "Food should not be used as a weapon," he said.

He said the United States.

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Cultural Centre, until M

## King to issue royal decree reconvening Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein will Tuesday open the fourth ordinary session of Parliament with a speech from the Throne in which he is expected to outline governmental political and economic programmes.

Following his remarks, the Senate will convene under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Lawzi during which the royal decree terminating the extraordinary session of Parliament on August 16, 1996 will be read and followed by one summoning Parliament and opening the new session on Nov. 19, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Senate will also elect a committee to draft a reply to the King's speech.

The Lower House of Parliament will also convene under the chairmanship of the most senior deputy during which the royal decrees on terminating and reconvening parliament will be read.

The House will later elect members of its permanent committee which groups the house speaker and assistants.

According to Article 13 of the Parliamentary Internal Regulations, the deputies will cast secret ballots, the majority of which will name the new House speaker.

In similar fashion will the House members elect the speaker's two deputies.

Parliament sources have predicted that incumbent House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour is likely to retain his seat for a third consecutive term.

The two main rivals for the seat are Islamic Action Front Deputy Ibrahim Kilani and centrist Deputy Mohammad Addoub Zaben.

The sources added that the present election law is based on the one-person, one-vote system.

The system is expected to be debated in the next House session.

## Princess inaugurates kindergarten building at refugee camp

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, HRH Princess Basma, Honorary Chairman of the Arab Children Fund's Society (ACFS) today inaugurated the society's new kindergarten building at Al Baqa'a Refugee Camp, a Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) statement said.

The Princess toured the various kindergarten areas, spoke with children and was briefed on the various activities instituted there.

She hailed the work of the society and kindergarten staff in caring for the children and expressed her appreciation of the programmes and services offered therein.

The Princess had donated JD5,000 in support of the kindergarten's programmes and directed to the upgrading of its services, the statement said.

President of the Union of Voluntary Societies in the Amman governorate Anwar Hadid gave a speech thanking the Princess for efforts in promoting volunteer work in Jordan as well as her role in supporting women and children-related issues at local, regional, and international levels.

ACFS President Ahmad Al-Es' also thanked Princess Basma for her continual ministering to the country's children as well as her leading efforts in enhancing social development activities in the Kingdom.

Princess Basma received the society's shield and she, herself, distributed shields and presents to individuals and institutions who had contributed to support the society's programmes and the new kindergarten building, the cost of which is estimated at JD45,000, the statement said.

The society was established at Baqa'a Camp in 1969 and currently offers services to more than 200 children under six years of age.

It is constituted of three branches: the Azmi Al Mufti camp in Irbid, and the Suf and Gaza Camps in Jerash.

## RSCN to train Yemeni officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Saturday announced plans for public awareness training for information and media officials as well as journalists from Yemen.

The training will cover environmental protection programmes.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, RSCN Director Khaled Irani said that beginning next week the first group of Yemenis will participate in an intensive training programme which covers both theoretical analyses and practical field work, such as visiting RSCN wildlife reserves which offer haven for endangered species of animals and plants.

Mr. Irani confirmed that he had received a request for setting up such a training programme from Chairman of the Board of the Yemeni Environment Protection Corporation Muhsen Hamadani and described individual training programmes as lasting for a period of two weeks.

The RSCN has run similar programmes for other interested foreigners and the society stated its enthusiasm in educating the Yemeni officials and journalists on public awareness programmes directed toward combating pollution and other methods of safeguarding the environment.

The RSCN was founded in 1966 and is a private, voluntary organisation with public service status dedicated to the conservation of nature and natural resources.

The society currently operates six wildlife reserves in Jordan and plays an active role in the legal enforcement of issues related to the conservation of nature and environmental protection.

Mr. Irani said that the training programmes will continue for subsequent groups of people who demonstrate interest.

He said that the first group of trainees are employed by the Yemeni Al Thawra newspaper and the Yemeni Environmental Corporation.

## Benefactor remembered for Red Crescent donation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Well-known philanthropist Kawkab Mango Saturday passed away at the age of 84 and was laid to rest in the Taneib village south of the Amman.

Ms. Mango was especially remembered by the local community for her bequeathing JD500,000 to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), two years ago.

JNRCS president Mohammad Hadid Saturday told the Jordan Times that Ms. Mango's donation financed the maternity annex, now carrying her name, at the society's Hail hospital in Ashrafieh.

Her donation also financed the expansion of the society's vocational training centre for girls which, previous to the donation, could offer free training in typing and dress making to 80 eligible girls and currently trains between 300 and 400 girls, Dr. Hadid said.

Upon making the donation to the JNRCS, Ms. Mango was honoured by His Majesty King Hussein who bestowed the Kingdom's Al Kawkab Medal of the Third Order upon her and also presented her with the JNRCS golden medal in recognition of her charitable act.

## Ministry of Supply receives bread pricing instructions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply is in the process of examining regulations conferred by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and focused on bread price reduction, Minister of Supply Munir Sobar announced Saturday.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, he confirmed that a preliminary study has indicated a possible decrease of 10 per cent in bread prices which translates to approximately 200 fils a kilo.

The Ministry of Supply has bought 150,000 tonnes of wheat at new global market prices which have dipped below previous rates, Mr. Sobar said, adding that the shipment will reach Jordan by 1997 and supply the Kingdom with enough of the grain to

last over four months.

Last Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein instructed the government to "reconsider bread prices in Jordan beginning with the date that the newly priced wheat reaches local consumers."

However, the King emphasised that any bread price reduction must not interfere with the government-distributed cash subsidy to Jordanian citizens in compensation for bread price increases which were effected last August.

According to officials, present stores in the Ministry of Supply warehouses were bought in line with a price range of \$210 to \$220 per tonne. The new shipment of 150,000 tonnes of American wheat contracted last month was purchased at the rate of \$164

per tonne.

Government figures demonstrate that the Kingdom consumed approximately 700,000 tonnes of wheat in 1995 while local production accounted for only 10 per cent of that figure.

Mr. Sobar informed Petra that his ministry is seeking new shipments of wheat, in addition to the above-mentioned 150,000 tonnes, in order to satisfy the country's consumption at the lowest possible price.

His announcement coincided Saturday with another by Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous who said that his ministry's National Aid Fund (NAF) has embarked on a two-stage programme to enable impoverished farmers to grow wheat.

the NAF allocated JD 500,000 for the first stage of the project and that an equal amount has been allotted for the second stage.

The minister added that the fund has already allocated JD 30,000 in the form of grants or soft loans to commence wheat production.

The NAF offers such soft loans or grants to indigent families to aid in the establishment of small businesses.

The loans can reach as high as JD60 a month for those who qualify.

Mr. Sobar said that these grants and the loans were distributed to 76 families who are in some way involved in wheat production.

## AACO calls for coordination among Arab airlines

AMMAN (J.T.) — The financial and economic planning committee of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) Saturday opened its annual meeting in Amman with Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi calling on Arab airlines to improve financial and economic performance.

This, they deemed necessary, to increase efficiency in competing with other international airlines.

There must be further coordination and cooperation among Arab airlines that they might exchange data and information as well as implement pertinent studies, said Mr. Dahabi, affirming that this would result in higher standards aimed toward placing Arab airlines "on the map of international air transport."

Jordan, indeed, hopes that Arab airlines will translate the idea of regional cooperation into [concrete action] to maintain successful competition in global air transport," he said.

Affirming that the Kingdom will host the general assembly meeting of the International Air Transport

Association (IATA) next October, Mr. Dahabi emphasised the need for Arab airlines to prepare for the event.

In this vein, he urged Arab airlines to utilise the recently established regional training centre in Amman to train their staff.

The IATA sponsored training centre, established with partial financing from the European Union last July, had earlier announced plans for joint training activities with the AACO.

AACO Secretary General Abdul Wahab Tuffaha addressed the meeting, stating that the organisation was striving to improve Arab airline standards in order to boost capabilities and maintain a competitive edge.

The committee, whose members come from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Jordan reviewed financial and economic issues as well as cooperation among Arab airlines.

## Trial postponed in child killing case

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court Saturday postponed the case of a 34-year-old man, accused in September of killing his two children, as the president of the court did not appear.

The case has been postponed until Monday.

Mazen Masri, who confessed to killing his two children Hanin, eight, and Hani, six, by poisoning them with cyanide on Sept. 11, was to be asked by the court tribunal whether or not he had appointed an attorney to represent him.

A close relative of Mr. Masri told the Jordan Times Saturday that Defence Attorney Ahmad Najdawi was retained by the suspect's family to represent him in court.

Mr. Masri also allegedly confessed to an earlier attempt to kill his wife and two children by opening a gas bottle while they slept.

Criminal Court Prosecutor Abdul Aziz Rawashdeh has filed two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted murder against the suspect.

The two children were discovered in an unconscious state early in the morning by their mother in their apartment in the Abu Oneizah Housing Complex in Shmeisani. The two were left alone while their mother gave their father a ride to work.

The children's mother rushed them to a hospital where they were declared dead on

arrival.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court also postponed the case of the former honorary Sri Lankan consul in Jordan Tawfiq Abu Khajil who is accused of a baby sale scam involving Sri Lankan domestic workers.

The postponement came at the request of his attorney.

Formal charges against Mr. Abu Khajil, a Jordanian businessman, include: use of forged documents, issuance of false certificates, sale of babies (illegal under a 1929 law against slavery), possession of unlicensed firearms, import of illegal wireless devices, abuses of trust and forgery of a government seal.

Nazih Zureikat, one of several attorneys defending Mr. Abu Khajil asked the court to postpone the case that he might prepare and present written evidence and call on his two last witnesses.

Also standing trial beside Mr. Abu Khajil is a Sri Lankan citizen identified as Anourma G.L., accused of agreeing to the sale of her baby, and Mr. Abu Khajil's former secretary, Andrea Bustani, 37, who is being tried in absentia.

The court tribunal is presided over by Judges Ismael Hmouz, Mufleh Mubeidin and Ahmad Khatib who assented to the request and set Nov. 27 to recommence the trial.

## What's Going On

### OPEN DAY

• Open day celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURE

• Lecture on the discovery in Tyrolian Alps of the 5,300-year old iceman by Prof. Dr. Andreas Lippert at Yarmouk University, Irbid at 3.00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Retrospective exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Kassab-Bachi at Darat Al Funun, Jalal Weibdeh, until Dec. 10. Also displaying works of contemporary Arab artists.
- Works by Syrian artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. until Nov. 30.
- Aspects from the modern Jordanian plastic art by several Jordanian artists entitled "Message" at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 28.
- Works by Monkith Sa'ad and Bert Hermens entitled "Untitled Diary" at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuheis, until Nov. 21.
- Photo panels and mosaics exhibition by German artist Yona Joest entitled "Petra — A Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 30.
- Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.
- Works by twenty four artists (from Iraq, Holland, Lebanon, Vietnam, Spain, Greece, Curacao, Indonesia, Russia, and Chile) entitled Hond and Hamer "Art in Cultural Transmission" at the Royal Society of Fine Art, Jabal Weibdeh until Nov. 30.
- Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prime Minister pays condolence call

IRBID (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday called at the home of Omar Suboh, a Jordanian recently killed in Iraq, and paid his condolences stating that the government would do its utmost to discover the identities of those who killed the embassy staffer.

### Jordan, Turkey call for boosting trade exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Hamdi Tabba'a Saturday stressed the importance of promoting trade and economic ties between Jordan and Turkey as well as the launching of joint projects. Subsequent to deliberations of the joint Jordanian-Turkish Business Council, he said that the two countries have, in the past, worked towards building political and economic relations and he called for furthering their gains.

Head of the visiting Turkish economic delegation Serif Egeli commended relations between Jordan and Turkey and reiterated the call for promotion of joint projects. He outlined opportunities for entrepreneurial cooperation between the two countries, stating that the MENA conference provided an opportunity to discuss economic issues in various arenas. Mr. Tabba'a stated that Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's called for boosting trade exchange between the nations to reach an annual \$200 million.

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## Russians, Chechens draw up temporary agreement

MOSCOW (R) — Russian and Chechen representatives said Saturday they had drawn up a temporary agreement to clarify relations between Moscow and the war-torn separatist region.

The document, designed to cover the period up to Jan. 27, when elections are due to be held in Chechnya, was expected to be signed by rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the near future.

It was hammered out in talks in Moscow between the secretary of Russia's security council, Ivan Rybkin, and Akhmed Zakayev, an aide to the separatist Chechen leadership.

"We have worked out the text of the treaty which can be signed by the chairmen of both governments," Mr.

Rybkin told Russian television after meeting Mr. Yandarbiyev's security adviser. The agreement is designed to build on a peace deal reached in August after 21 months of fighting between the rebels and Russian troops which killed tens of thousands of people in the north Caucasus region.

"We've prepared a very solid, good document, which will bear fruit in the near future," Mr. Zakayev was quoted as saying by the RIA news agency.

He said it mainly concerned the economic aspects of the future of the oil-rich region, including reconstruction, restoration of transport links, health and social security.

Moscow, which wants to keep Chechnya within the Russian federation, has proposed making the region a

free economic zone which would excuse it from tax and duties.

An uneasy ceasefire has held since the Aug. 31 deal, but Saturday officials expressed renewed fears that a so-called "third force" was intent on wrecking the peace.

Up to 32 people were killed Saturday when an explosion, possibly caused by a bomb, ripped through a building housing Russian military officers in the republic of Dagestan bordering Chechnya, news agencies said.

In the Chechen capital Grozny unknown attackers shot at a maternity hospital and a military post staffed jointly by Russian soldiers and Chechen fighters who have policed the region since the August deal. No one was injured.

"Evidently there is a third force which is not interested in a peaceful solution of the problems," the Post's Commander Alexander Shveitsov told Russian television, adding that he would work with Chechen representatives to prevent any repetition.

Mr. Zakayev arrived in Moscow Friday to discuss the details of the draft treaty, which will work as a legal background for the all-government bodies in Chechnya in the run-up to the presidential and parliamentary elections.

Mr. Rybkin did not say when or where it might be signed but has previously said that Mr. Chernomyrdin, who is anxious to play a greater role in the peace process, could go to Chechnya for the signing.

## French soldiers patrol capital of Central African Republic

BANGUI (AFP) — French troops were patrolling the Central African Republic's capital Saturday after soldiers who mutinied twice earlier this year clashed with police and took two politicians hostage.

Soldiers of the French Operational Assistance Element (EFAO) backed by armoured personnel carriers took up positions here at dawn Saturday to secure strategic locations, including the presidency and national radio.

Presidential security forces were also in the centre of the capital and road-blocks were in place. Access to the Ouango suburb along the Oubangui River, where the clash took place, was blocked off.

The president himself, Ange-Felix Patasse, is out of the country, attending the World Food Summit in Rome. Prime Minister Jean-Paul Ngouandou was due to make a radio address mid-morning.

The security measures come after soldiers of the regiment of Operational Defence of Territory

(RDOT) and of the Mixed Intervention Regiment (RMI), who mutinied in April and May this year, occupied a police station in the south of the city, taking at least two people hostage.

These included Joseph Tchendo, the executive secretary of the president's Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People (MLPC), and a former minister, Boundandele Koumba, according to reliable sources.

The soldiers were armed with weapons stolen from the Kasai camp's arsenal and from the police station, the sources said.

Earlier, RDOT soldiers clashed with police outside the Ouango home of Anicet Sautet, a former soldier and head of the Socaltel Communications Company who was imprisoned for financial malpractice and escaped during the May mutiny.

Police coming to rearrest Mr. Sautet Friday evening were met by grenade and rifle fire and one was killed. Mr. Sautet, who is close to former President Andre

Kolingba, has his own private armed guard reinforced by RDOT soldiers.

The situation in the rest of Bangui was calm, with shops and markets open and taxis in service.

However witnesses spoke of discontent at the RDOT soldiers.

"Yakoma militants are stirring up unrest," one tradesman said at a market in the north of the city. "They should be dealt with once and for all."

The RDOT is made up mainly of members of the Yakoma ethnic group, to which Kolingba also belonged.

The May mutiny, which involved violence and pillaging, was only put down after massive intervention by French forces.

A French foreign ministry spokesman in Paris said Saturday that French officials were in "close contact" with the Central African authorities and added that the safety of French and foreign communities was not at risk and that the usual precautions were being taken.

## Burma's Suu Kyi, attackers fail to appear

RANGOON (AFP) — Several hundred supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi gathered Saturday near her residence, but Burma's opposition leader and the mobs that attacked her last weekend were conspicuous by their absence.

Both the military government and Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) have blamed each other for the attacks on her motorcade last weekend, in which NLD Co-Vice Chairman Tin Oo was cut when windows shattered.

A crowd including NLD members and supporters, curious bystanders, journalists — most of them Japanese — and plain clothed members of the military intelligence gathered near the house, witnesses said.

Around 5:30 p.m. (1100 GMT), the news spread through the grapevine that the NLD leader would not be making an appearance, and the crowd dispersed.

Riot police were out in force, but made no move against the crowd, which remained outside the road-blocks set up to deny them access to Ms. Suu Kyi's compound.

At first only the NLD leader's residence was isolated, but in the afternoon the no-access zone was expanded to the intersections at either side.

"Her supporters feel it is sort of a duty for them to come out Saturday and Sunday to support ... they have done what they can," an observer said.

The military government has blocked NLD leaders from addressing supporters for the past eight weeks. Previously the NLD had held public meetings every weekend since Ms. Suu Kyi's release from house arrest in July 1995.

While the government media have accused the Nobel Peace laureate of staging last weekend's violence, the NLD said about 1,000 members of the United Solidarity Development Association (USDA), a government mass organization, had attacked their motorcade in the presence of police.

Major Hla Min of Burma's office of strategic studies told AFP Sunday that an official enquiry had been launched into the events, which would take some time to complete.

But in Washington, U.S. state department spokesman Nicholas Burns said there was "clear evidence" that the attacks were organized by the USDA.



Cuban President Fidel Castro delivers his speech to the plenary session of the U.N. sponsored World Food Summit Saturday. Mr. Castro wrote off the summit as a shameful fig leaf for the evils of capitalism and blasted sanctions against Cuba and other countries as criminal and absurd (Reuters photo)

## Castro blasts U.N. food summit in Rome for being too limited

ROME (AFP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro blasted a U.N. food summit in Rome Saturday for ignoring the full dimensions of suffering that hunger is causing worldwide.

"What kind of cosmetic solutions are we going to provide so that in 20 years from now there would be 400 million instead of 800 million starving people," Castro asked in a speech to a plenary session of the U.N. world food summit.

"The very modesty of these goals is shameful," he said.

The summit of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has adopted a Rome declaration and action plan to reduce the number of undernourished people in developing countries to half their present level within two decades.

Mr. Castro said this was not enough, in sharp contrast to the approval almost all the 190 countries represented here have expressed. He made a stinging attack on capitalism, injustice and waste in the world.

His comments were greeted with sustained applause. "If 35,000 people, half of them children, are starving to death every day, why is it that in the developed countries olive groves are being torn down, cattle herds are being sacrificed and large amounts of money are being paid so that the land is kept unproductive," said Mr. Castro, who dressed in a dark blue suit with red tie

rather than his trademark military fatigues.

Although Mr. Castro, who is 70, shunned his traditional uniform, he hammered home the themes he has sounded since taking over Cuba in a revolution in 1959. "The rich do not know hunger," he said.

"If the world is rightly moved by accidents and natural or social catastrophes that bring death to hundreds of thousands of people, why is it not equally moved by that genocide which is taking place every day in front of our eyes," he said.

The summit has been dominated by how to relieve the plight of a million refugees in eastern Zaire who are caught in battles between Hutus and Tutsis.

Mr. Castro said the while a multinational intervention force has been raised to help them, "what are we going to do to prevent the starvation of one million people every month in the rest of the world."

He added: "It is capitalism, neoliberalism, the laws of a wild market, the external debt, underdevelopment and the unequal terms of reference that are killing so many people in the world."

"Why is it that \$700 billion are invested every year in the military instead of investing a portion of these resources in fighting hunger," Mr. Castro asked.

He also attacked embargoes, one of which the United States has imposed on

Cuba since 1960. At the summit Friday, Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhiuddin Marouf attacked the embargo imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, to stop it from selling oil.

Mr. Castro said: "Why is it that criminal policies and absurd blockades that include food and medicines are being added to all this with the purpose of annihilating whole populations out of hunger and diseases."

He concluded: "Let the truth prevail and not hypocrisy and deceit. Let's build an awareness on the fact that hegemonism, arrogance and selfishness must cease in this world."

Mr. Castro was one of 37 heads of state and government scheduled to speak to the summit Saturday, the first speaker Saturday was Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

Among the other African speakers Saturday were Rwanda's Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigyema, Central Africa's President Ange-Felix Patasse, Chad's President Idriss Deby, Angola's President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and Botswana's President Ketumile Masire.

Other speakers were Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, Spanish President Jose Maria Aznar, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, Croatia's Prime Minister Zlatko Matosevic and Georgia's Prime Minister Nikoloz Lekishvili.

## Shipping tycoon tied to China gets set to rule Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — A shipping tycoon whose company was bailed out by Beijing when it was sinking years ago is poised to govern Hong Kong when China takes over next year, after a thumping victory in the first round of the ballot.

Tung Chee-Hwa swept up 206 of the votes cast Friday by an exclusive club of 400 Hong Kong's rich and influential, who were selected for the purpose under Beijing's close supervision.

The runner-up, former chief Judge Ti Liang Yang scored 82. A third candidate, businessman Peter Woo, came in with 54. The trio were the only candidates to get the minimum 50 votes required to go through to the deciding round on Dec. 11.

If an election were held by universal suffrage, however, Judge Yang would get 35.7 per cent and Tung 33.5 per cent, an opinion poll by a local university showed after the vote.

Tung, 59, recently revealed for the first time that China had helped salvage his family shipping empire 11 years ago by backing a \$120 million syndicated fund led by pro-Beijing tycoon Henry Fok, a king-maker in today's leadership contest.

"I know there were mainland funds in it. I'm sure. To Mr Fok and those who have helped me...I am very grateful," Tung said.

Mr. Fok went to pains

after Friday's vote to assure reporters for half an hour that the rescue package was above board and had not entailed any political deal on the future of Hong Kong.

"I don't think he is returning favours to China by running for the chief executive," Mr. Fok said.

"Commercial relations are strictly what we have with those who you call Chinese-funded banks. We deposit our money there or we borrow money from them — it is strictly normal commercial relations," Mr. Fok said.

Tung has long been viewed as Beijing's favoured candidate to become Hong Kong's chief executive when Britain hands back to China at midnight next June 30.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen gave fresh assurances Friday that the winner had not been preordained by Chinese leaders.

Many in Hong Kong are convinced that a demonstrative personal handshake that tung received from President Jiang Zemin in January was a deliberate cue.

Tung has tried to shake off the impression that despite the existence of other candidates it is really a one-horse race.

"I don't think it is a foregone conclusion. It's three weeks away to Dec. 11... and I will have to be working very hard to make sure that I win on that day," he

told Reuters television after the first round vote.

"The process of nomination today was done in a very transparent manner," he said.

Some analysts, noting that Tung had scored more than 50 per cent, wondered if a second round was worth the bother and suggested that Yang and Woo might as well bow out.

"For if the ultimate purpose of running is to win, then there is little point in them carrying on," said political commentator C.K. Lau.

Tung, a striking figure with spiky grey hair and a boxer's stance, is noted for his cautious style and modesty.

He and his rivals will be interviewed by the committee members at the end of the month on their policies and attitudes.

So far he has emphasised the importance of the economy and business, and has taken a conservative view on ticklish issues such as human rights and democracy, advocating "consensus" rather than confrontation in dealings with China's Communist rulers.

Speculation has abounded in Hong Kong that some of its business firms may have been secret card carrying members of the Chinese Communist Party for years. But Tung's name has until now not figured among these rumours.

## Bhutto leads big protest in home province

KARACHI (AFP) — Sacked Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto led a procession of several thousand emotional party workers and supporters Saturday on her first visit to her home province of Sind since her dismissal, witnesses said.

"It is not my fight alone but the fight of the people of Pakistan," Ms. Bhutto said in brief remarks to reporters before joining hundreds of people gathered at the airport.

President Farooq Ahmad Leghari dismissed Ms. Bhutto on Nov. 5, accusing her three-year old government of corruption, mismanagement and lawlessness resulting in the deaths of thousands of people.

"The welcome accorded to me demonstrates the popularity of my elected government. It demonstrates that the people are against the illegal and unconstitutional dismissal of the government," Ms. Bhutto said.

As she left from the airport in a vehicle procession there were minor clashes between baton-wielding police and party workers in the airport visitors hall.

The number of people in the procession grew to several thousand as a stream of packed trucks and buses joined it along the 20-kilometre route to Ms. Bhutto's seaside Bilawal residence, witnesses said.

The crowd, carrying party flags, placards and banners, chanted slogans in support of Ms. Bhutto and against Mr. Leghari, calling him a "murderer of democracy."

Flower petals were repeatedly showered on Ms. Bhutto during the first major show of strength by the party since her ouster.

Before the arrival of the procession, two small groups of anti-Bhutto protesters staged peaceful demonstrations along the highway.

The protesters were from a splinter PPP group that had been formed by Ms. Bhutto's estranged brother Mir Murtaza, who was killed in Karachi on Sept. 20 in a shootout between police and his guards.

The crowd shouted slogans alleging that Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari had a role in the killing of Murtaza.

Elsewhere, another group of Murtaza supporters and PPP workers clashed, leaving at least seven people injured and damaging six vehicles, as the rivals threw rocks and fought with fists, witnesses said.

Mr. Zardari was placed in detention on Nov. 5 after Mr. Leghari sacked Ms. Bhutto and also dissolved the National Assembly, setting new elections for Feb. 3.

Ms. Bhutto said Mr. Leghari had broken a pledge to the people and dissolved the National Assembly and the government out of a "lust for power."

PPP officials said Ms. Bhutto would meet party members and leaders during her two-day stay in Karachi, the capital of Sind province.

She was to return later to Islamabad where she has filed a writ at the Supreme Court Wednesday challenging the dismissal of her government.

## Former KGB spy flies home after U.S. detention

MOSCOW (R) — A former KGB agent held in the United States on espionage charges flew back to a hero's welcome in Moscow Saturday and said it felt great to be free again.

Washington dismissed its case against Vladimir Galkin Thursday after Moscow threatened retaliatory measures.

Russia believes the United States violated an unwritten, gentlemanly code of honour in international espionage allowing former agents to travel freely.

"I was sure that my country would not leave me in trouble and I am very glad that I am a free man again," Mr. Galkin told a scrum of reporters in the VIP lounge of Sheremetyevo Airport after returning on an Aeroflot flight from New York.

Describing himself as a "small soldier of the cold war," the fair-haired Galkin blamed his detention on bureaucratic incompetence.

"There is a very complex bureaucratic machinery and the mechanism did not work properly," a clearly relieved Galkin told Russian television before being driven off in a white limousine.

The 50-year-old former agent, who had not hidden his former occupation on his visa application, was arrested at the airport in New York on Oct. 29 and accused of spying on the Star Wars programme in 1991.

Prime Minister Viktor

Chernomyrdin raised his case in a telephone conversation with U.S. Vice President Al Gore Thursday, appealing to him to limit damage to relations between Washington and Moscow.

A court in Worcester, Massachusetts later dropped the charges against Mr. Galkin and the U.S. Justice Department issued a statement saying that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had recommended the move in the national interest.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said it had drawn up a concrete list of U.S. candidates for arrest in Russia in case the Americans had refused to let Mr. Galkin go.

Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), successor organisation to the Communist-era KGB, praised the U.S. decision, which it said had brought the case to a close.

But it made clear its displeasure at the incident, which it said had damaged friendly relations between the two countries' intelligence services.

"If Russia had done the same to an American spy, the U.S. Sixth Fleet would be here on the Moscow river," SVR spokeswoman Tatiana Samolis told Reuters Thursday.

The service is to examine the incident in the next few days to try to understand what lay behind Mr. Galkin's detention.

Greeted with bouquets of flowers on his arrival in Moscow, Mr. Galkin thanked Mr. Chernomyr-

din, the SVR, former colleagues and Russian journalists for their efforts to get him released.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted him as saying he would not press damage claims against the U.S. authorities for the inconvenience he had suffered during his detention.

"It is enough that they have acknowledged their mistake," TASS quoted Mr. Galkin as saying.

Asked about conditions in U.S. jails — widely believed by Russians to be superior to their own — he said: "It is better not to land yourself in jail there."

However Mr. Galkin's fellow prisoners had shown him kindness, sharing food with him during his ordeal, TASS said.

Russia's NTV television said Mr. Galkin did not particularly like America and had only gone there for business reasons.

Interfax news agency, quoting his daughter Yulia, said Mr. Galkin had been denied medicine that he takes to regulate his blood pressure.

"The Americans lied when they said that my father was able to take all the medicines he needed," Interfax quoted her as saying.

"During his two weeks in detention he could not take the tablets for his blood pressure and as a result, when we got home, it was rather higher (than normal)," she said.

World  
More

Rwanda (R) — One of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees streamed from Zaire for a second straight day Saturday, a newly found "road of hope."

Despite the mass exodus which began Friday, the United Nations still voted to launch a multinational humanitarian force to tend to the more than one million refugees.

The road of death is now a road of hope, said Ray Johnson of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, adding the U.N.H.C.R. were in good luck.

Some physically and some mentally, refugees said the road was west into Zaire, where the Hutus fled in 1994, was packed with people, carrying all their possessions.

"It is an incredible sight, a sea of people," rejoined one journalist.

Refugees in the Goma region of eastern Zaire began leaving home Friday after a reprieve from amongst the 100,000 Hutus who had previously been ordered to leave.

## Indian judge

DELHI (R) — An Indian judge probing the worst mid-air disaster in the world said the site of the crash was "a scene of horror."

Officials said as the wreckage was lifted, the site was a "scene of horror" and "a scene of horror."

The crash killed 280 people.

It will also have to determine if one of the planes was at the last moment in a bid to avoid the other.

From all accounts it was a head-on collision.

There are indications of a "scene of horror" and "a scene of horror."

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The protesters were from a splinter PPP group that had been formed by Ms. Bhutto's estranged brother Mir Murtaza, who was killed in Karachi on Sept. 20 in a shootout between police and his guards.

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Elsewhere, another group of Murtaza supporters and PPP workers clashed, leaving at least seven people injured and damaging six vehicles, as the rivals threw rocks and fought with fists, witnesses said.

Mr. Zardari was placed in detention on Nov. 5 after Mr. Leghari sacked Ms. Bhutto and also dissolved the National Assembly, setting new elections for Feb. 3.

Ms. Bhutto said Mr. Leghari had broken a pledge to the people and dissolved the National Assembly and the government out of a "lust for power."

PPP officials said Ms. Bhutto would meet party members and leaders during her two-day stay in Karachi, the capital of Sind province.

She was to return later to Islamabad where she has filed a writ at the Supreme Court Wednesday challenging the dismissal of her government.

Up to 32 killed

MOSCOW (R) — Up to 32 people were killed in a plane crash in the Russian republic of Chechnya, witnesses said.

The crash occurred on Saturday, Nov. 17, near the town of Kizlyar early in the morning.

The wreckage of the plane was found in a field.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

East Timor's



# More Rwanda Hutus trek home; U.N. still sends force

GISENYI, Rwanda (R) — Tens of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees streamed home from Zaire for a second straight day Saturday along a newly found "road of hope."

Despite the mass exodus which began Friday, the United Nations still voted to dispatch a multinational humanitarian force to tend to the more than one million refugees.

"The road of death is now a road of hope," said Ray Wilkinson of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, adding the returnees were in good shape, physically and seemed cheerful.

Witnesses said the road leading west into Zaire, where the Hutus fled in panic after Tutsis won power in 1994, was packed with people, carrying all their possessions.

"It is an incredible sight, a moving sea of people," reported one journalist.

Refugees in the Goma area of eastern Zaire began trekking home Friday after the departure from amongst their midst of militiamen who had previously prevented them from going home.

The refugees had been held virtual hostage in the huge Mugunga camp, intimidated into staying in exile, until Zairean rebels bombarded it Thursday.

"The impasse has been broken," Mr. Wilkinson said. "This is amazing and unstoppable."

By Saturday morning more than 100,000 had returned home, UNHCR said. The 15-member U.N. Security Council Friday unanimously approved the deployment of a Canadian-led multinational force until March 31 to ensure food and medicine reached refugees.

Canadian Ambassador Richard Fowler said the refugee exodus did not exclude the need for a large number of troops.

"Despite the heartening news that up to a third of the Rwandan refugees in Zaire may finally be going home, people will continue to die in eastern Zaire in appalling numbers and their presence there will continue to destabilise the region," Mr. Fowler told reporters.

"Close to a million refugees will remain at risk, even if the reports of current refugee flows into Gisenyi

(Rwanda) are fully accurate," he added.

Mr. Fowler said more than 20 countries had offered over 10,000 soldiers.

Rwanda said the refugee exodus meant the force was no longer relevant and the world should send aid to Rwanda instead.

But U.N. spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said the refugees still needed aid and troops were necessary to handle the logistics. About 700,000 refugees remained in desperate need of help, she said.

The revolt in eastern Zaire, which groups ethnic Tutsis and other opponents of ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko, has also put hundreds of thousands of Zaireans to flight.

The UNHCR said some 300,000 people had converged on the east Zairean town of Goma and were now moving towards the border. They were crossing at the rate of 12,000 an hour.

"Some 100,000 have crossed since yesterday, they are so many we cannot register them," UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler said.

Other aid workers said it was impossible to give an

accurate estimate of the numbers of people who have already crossed back.

The returnees were massing at the Nkamira Transit Camp, waiting to be transported to their home districts by trucks and buses.

"We have 50 trucks already, another 20 on the way, and are organising 100 more buses and trucks in Kigali," Mr. Kessler said.

Over a million Hutus fled Rwanda fearing reprisals after the 1994 genocide of up to a million people — mostly Tutsis — and a civil war in which an army dominated by returning Tutsi exiles took power.

Hundreds of thousands of Hutus fled from an equally bitter civil war in Burundi.

With the armed Hutu hardliners moving west, a regrouping of Hutu refugees further inside Zaire remained likely. The whereabouts of many who fled deeper into Zaire earlier was still unclear.

The World Health Organisation confirmed an outbreak of cholera among Zaireans in Sake. Earlier, doctors spoke of cholera at the Mwenga camp which housed 250,000 refugees.

Meanwhile, Ugandan au-



Rwandan Hutu refugees walk through the border town of Goma Friday after they fled the Mugunga refugee camp Thursday. The refugees were told to cross the border back into Rwanda by Zairean rebel soldiers (Reuter photo)

thorities said Saturday they had killed about 65 "bandits" near the southwest border with Zaire in fighting that started three days ago.

As many as 70,000 people were displaced by the fighting and the figure could rise to 75,000, an Information Department official in Kasese told Reuters by telephone.

"We do not expect it to get any worse than this. Most people are fleeing because of the ripple effect. You hear people are fleeing from one village so you do the same. Civilians are out of the lines of fire right now," he said.

"I think the problem right now is one of supplies, food and other things because people are fleeing without

taking anything," the official said.

Senior military sources said seven Ugandan soldiers were killed and 10 wounded since Uganda said Kasese district had been invaded by a combination of Zairean troops and Zairean-based Ugandan dissidents.

The fighting is linked to the month-long rebellion in

eastern Zaire by ethnic Tutsis and other Zairean groups opposed to President Mobutu Sese Seko.

On Wednesday, Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Martin Aliko said the Ugandan army repulsed the attack and killed three invaders.

Zaire has denied that its troops were involved.

## Indian judge starts probe into air disaster

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian judge probing the world's worst mid-air disaster will begin investigations at the site of the crash Saturday, officials said as searchers continued to sift the scattered debris for 46 missing people.

Delhi high court judge R.C. Lahoti will have to find out whether the collision of the Saudi Arabian Boeing 747 and Kazakh Ilyushin-76 near Delhi Tuesday was caused by either being at the wrong altitude. The crash killed 349 people.

He will also have to determine if one of the planes swerved at the last moment in a vain bid to avoid the collision.

"From all accounts it was not a head-on collision. There are indications of banking by one of the planes, possibly to get out of the other's way," a senior aviation official told Reuters.

Rescuers found five bodies in the wreckage of the Saudi Arabian jumbo jet Friday, taking the total to 303, and are looking for more.

The wreckage of the Boeing 747, which dug a

20-foot crater in a mustard field near the north Indian town of Charkhi Dadi, 80 kilometres west of Delhi, was scattered over an area of four square kilometres.

"We are still on search, digging the earth for any bodies there are in the crater," police official V.B. Singh told Reuters. "There may be some bodies there."

All 37 people on board the Ilyushin have been found.

Mr. Singh said police had cordoned off the site and were guarding it until after the judge's visit.

"The judge will visit the sites of the crash with technical experts and examine the debris," he said.

"Only after that, and with the court's approval, will we withdraw the security, and start moving the debris away."

Judge Lahoti will also have to decide when the flight recorders, which will give clues to the cause of the collision, are to be decoded.

Kazakh officials have asked for the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder to be sent to Moscow for decoding, which could take 10 days, officials said.

But the Boeing recorders can be decoded in India.

Indian Civil Aviation officials said they felt the probe team would probably be able to wrap up its work before the Feb. 15 deadline the federal government has set.

India's Director General of Civil Aviation H.S. Khola, asked by Reuters if the inquiry would take three months, replied, "I don't think so."

Officials said they would request the American government to allow the crew of an American C-141 military plane that saw the collision to give evidence to the probe team.

"Two fireballs seemed to appear...they proceeded to descend down and hit the ground and became fireballs on the ground," the pilot of the cargo plane, flying supplies for the American embassy into New Delhi, said.

"We will request the American administration to make them available," Yogesh Chandra, the top civil servant in the Civil Aviation Ministry, said.

Searchers have faced huge difficulties in locating the remains of all the passengers, most of them Indians

going to work in Saudi Arabia. The authorities have the gruesome task of identifying the charred and mangled bodies.

Only 128 of the 303 bodies recovered have been identified, authorities said. About 130 have been sent to Delhi in trucks lined with ice.

At Charkhi Dadi, the trickle of dazed relatives has slowed.

Bodies, some charred beyond recognition, were kept on melting ice slabs in an open courtyard and in makeshift morgues.

In funerals Thursday, 76 Muslims were laid in a mass grave and 15 Hindus cremated on a huge pyre. Three Christians were buried in a local cemetery.

The cause of the collision, India's worst aviation disaster, remained unclear, but New Delhi said ageing airport equipment and language problems were not to blame.

Ground controllers had told the Saudi plane to climb to 14,000 feet (4,270 metres) as it took off for Dhahran and Jeddah. The Kazair pilot was told to stay at 15,000 feet as he approached New Delhi airport.

## Riots shatter French Guiana's tranquil facade

CAYENNE, French Guiana (R) — Four nights of rioting in French Guiana's capital Cayenne has shattered the French territory's tranquil facade and laid bare economic and social woes.

Organised gangs of armed rioters fought police, looted stores and then set them on fire this week.

The disturbances caused one death, at least 20 injuries and millions of dollars of damage to property — mostly government buildings and shops.

French Guiana, located in northern South America, has been in French hands since the 17th century and is

the only non-independent territory remaining on the continent.

Pierre Dartout, the French administrator (known as a prefect) in Guiana, described the riots as "planned actions by organised groups who aim to destabilise Guiana."

Though he had no evidence that foreign governments were to blame, he said many of the rioters were foreign nationals.

The riots were sparked by a strike of high school students protesting poor conditions in local schools, but soon were overtaken by more radical groups, some

of whom favour French Guiana's independence from mainland France.

Paris has responded by sending more than 500 paramilitary riot police to the city of 35,000. France's minister of education and minister for overseas territories are to arrive in a few weeks to organise wide-ranging talks early next year on the department's problems.

French Guiana lags behind mainland France in housing, education and health. Official unemployment exceeds 23 per cent and young people under 25, who make up 50 per cent of

the population, are the hardest hit.

But subsidies from Paris and more recently Brussels pump up the standard of living to the highest in South America.

French Guiana's cost of living exceeds that of Paris, necessitating a 40 per cent bonus for civil servants who make up a third of the work force.

The department imported \$750 million in goods in 1994 versus \$45 million in exports, mostly in state-subsidised shrimp, wood and hotels.

## Up to 32 killed in Russia blast, others trapped

MOSCOW (R) — Up to 32 people were killed when an explosion, possibly caused by a bomb, ripped through a building housing Russian military officers in the southern republic of Dagestan Saturday, news agencies said.

Agencies and Russian radio stations put the death toll at between 23 and 32, but local and national branches of the ministry for emergency situations could not confirm the figure.

"We can confirm only three dead," said a ministry official from the Dagestan capital Makhachkala.

The ministry, headquartered in Moscow and with branches throughout Russia, deals with natural disasters and with any other emergencies.

Dagestan borders the Caspian Sea and the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya, where an uneasy peace is holding after a 21-month conflict between Russian forces and Chechen separatists.

Chechen rebels seized hundreds of hostages in the Dagestani town of Kizlyar early this year, in the second major raid outside the territory of the breakaway republic. Dozens of people were killed in the raid, but many of the rebels escaped.

The centre section of the eight-storey building, construct-

ed of concrete panels, collapsed in the blast in the port town of Kaspysk.

RIA news agency put the toll at 32 and said 27 bodies had been dragged from the building, where more than 130 people lived. The casualties included a small child who died after being taken to hospital.

Many residents, officers from the Russian border guards and air force and their families, were trapped inside, although officials said over 50 people had been rescued.

ITAR-TASS news agency said there were signs that TNT had been exploded in the building and it said the presence of TNT was hampering rescue operations.

"Preliminary information indicates that an explosive device of unidentified type went off," it quoted a press officer of the Russian border guard forces as saying. Other sources told the agency there was evidence TNT had been exploded.

News agencies said hospitals in the region were preparing to receive the injured from the explosion, which took place at 2.20 a.m. (2300 GMT Friday).

TASS said a senior member of the border guard forces had cut short a visit to Latvia to travel to the Dagestan region.

## East Timor's Bishop Belo calls halt to protests

JAKARTA (R) — Tens of thousands of East Timorese gathered at Dili's Cathedral Saturday to welcome home Nobel laureate Bishop Carlos Belo who told them it was time to stop demonstrating, witnesses said.

They said the large crowd of well-wishers, many of whom had earlier travelled in from rural areas after hearing Bishop Belo was returning, made the bishop's trip from Komoro Airport to the cathedral last night more than a hour. It usually takes 10 minutes.

Prominent East Timorese Parishioner Florentino Sarmiento told Reuters the bishop prayed with the crowd

before delivering a 40-minute speech, constantly broken by spontaneous applause, in the local Tetum language and Indonesian.

Police and witnesses said despite the overwhelming nature of the welcome and the almost unprecedented size of the crowd, no incidents were reported and people had dispersed peacefully by mid-afternoon.

"There was at least 60,000-70,000 people. The bishop went to the cathedral we prayed together and he gave his message and then he asked everybody to go home," Mr. Sarmiento, also a prominent non-government organisation worker,

told Reuters.

Bishop Belo was earlier met at the airport by what police estimated was a crowd of 5,000 people bearing banners saying "viva Belo."

East Timor's deputy police chief Colonel Atok Rismanto told Reuters more than 10,000 flocked to the cathedral. Other witnesses said the crowd numbered "tens of thousands."

Daily mass demonstrations led initially by students at the University of East Timor in central Dili started last Tuesday in protest against criticism of Bishop Belo by Indonesian officials and in the media

and protest demonstrations in Jakarta.

The bishop, jointly awarded the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize with self-exiled East Timorese-born independence activist Jose Ramos Horta, was subject to the Indonesian backlash after he was reported to have said in an interview with a German news magazine that Indonesian troops treated East Timorese like "dogs."

Bishop Belo, who spent the week in Jakarta attending an annual meeting of Indonesian Roman Catholic bishops, has refused to comment until he sees a full transcript of the interview.

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## Jordan Times

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## Frightening precedent

ISRAELI SUPREME court last Thursday took a very bizarre decision. It overturned a lower court's ruling that barred the use of physical force by the Israeli secret police against Palestinian detainee Mohammad Hamdan. The decision drew severe criticism from international human rights agencies. The first body to openly reject the Israeli ruling was naturally the U.N. Committee on the Convention against Torture which labelled the decision as one sanctioning torture. "It is particularly disappointing," said a member of the committee, "that such a civilised society as Israel should feel the need to resort to such measures even in the face of imminent danger."

Historically, Israel has given its security forces the right to torture Palestinians during interrogation. As far back as 1987 the Shin Bet was officially authorised to use "moderate physical pressure," when interrogating Arabs and "increased physical pressure," when an "attack appeared imminent."

Of course there is a thin line that divides moderate physical pressure from torture. The rationale behind the Israeli supreme court's relaxation of the rules against the use of torture was the presumption that Mr. Hamdan "holds crucial information which would enable the frustration of future disasters." What is disappointing about this new Israeli jurisprudence is not only the fact that it contravenes in the clearest way possible the Convention against Torture, which Israel has ratified and accepted as legally binding, but also that it sets a bad example in the region for the promotion and protection of human rights. It states start expounding and applying the principle that the ends justify the means, the cause of human rights would be dealt a severe blow. What distinguishes a democracy from a totalitarian regime is the faithful adherence to international norms. There can be no room for expediency in the pursuit of human rights and the rise of an imminent danger should not override this principle.

There is therefore every fear that the Israeli position on torture would set a dangerous precedent that undemocratic countries would exploit in their onslaught on basic human rights. There are always effective but legal means to conduct interrogations when there are security risks. The democratic world has been more than successful in maintaining law and order without dangerously bending laws. The basis on which the Israeli supreme court rested its decision is the presumption that the suspect holds very important information. Over and above the fact that torture is a taboo under all circumstances and conditions, the presumption that the suspect has very crucial information may not prove to be true. The deployment of illegal duress to establish the veracity or falsehood of this presumption is something that no civilised nation should tolerate. Israel cannot vindicate its departure from basic human rights standards by claiming that its security is being threatened. It cannot claim that it is the only true democracy in the region and then violate the most basic of human rights, the right to fair treatment. It cannot point its finger at other totalitarian regimes if it indulges in their own methods. If today the Israeli supreme court sanctions torture, should we expect it tomorrow to sanction graver violation? The mere thought is frightening.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS THE date of resumption of parliamentary sessions, Nov. 19, approaches, political and other groups are discussing issues and making predictions connected with Parliament's work and the topics that require priority on the agenda, said Bassam Tell, a writer for Al Ra'i. Conflicting views persist on such topics as poverty, unemployment, economic recession, higher education, administrative corruption and workers' wages among others; and all these require due attention and solutions, he said. But the writer noted that perhaps the most controversial issue is the elections law. Most of the political groups call for its substitution with a modern law that takes into consideration the rights of all communities in a fair manner. While different groups present different ideas on how to reform the elections law, they are almost all in agreement on the need for the country to scrap the present one-person, one-vote system, added the writer. He said that the government and Parliament ought to respond favourably to the call for change in a bid to enhance democracy and the concept of pluralism and respect of the rights of all groups.

A WRITER for Al Dustour drew attention to the fact that coffee prices declined in the past few months, by 50 per cent in some cases, on the international markets and demanded that coffee prices in Jordan follow suit. Now that the government has responded to the decline in the wheat prices in world markets and is planning to reduce the price of bread, it can do the same thing with the coffee prices, said Mohammad Daoud. It is unreasonable to see ground coffee still sold at JD 4.5 or JD 5 a kilogramme while its price on world markets was reduced by 50 per cent, and while the price of coffee beans has dropped by 30 per cent in Jordan, said the writer. Suggesting that the price of a kilo of ground coffee should not exceed JD 2.5, the writer said that the Jordanian Consumers Protection Society, which is supposed to protect the consumers' interests, and the Ministry of Supply, which normally intervenes and controls prices, ought to step in and put matters right. He said even at JD 2.5 or JD 3, retail merchants selling coffee can still make 100 per cent profit. In light of the high cost of living and the soaring prices of various basic commodities, he added, such interventions seem imperative.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Minimum wages — an 'inevitable, civilised move'

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

IF, AT long last, Jordan would impose a legal minimum wage limit, the credit (or the blame) will go to Dr. Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh, the current minister of labour, who adopted the idea enthusiastically, and worked hard to gain support, despite the fact that the idea was initially met with reservations in the private sector circles, scepticism among government officials and near apathy among economists commentators, and even leaders of labour unions.

Strictly speaking, the imposition of a minimum wage is a big exception from the concept of free initiative and interaction between supply and demand in the market. Basically, wages, like the prices of other goods and services, should be left to find their own level to secure clearance of the supply and demand in the market. However, work in particular is not a usual commodity, the production of which can be reduced if demand decreased. It is a human element which deserves to be looked upon and treated differently.

The line of poverty in Jordan was determined three years ago to be at the income level of JD 120 per month per family. Some 18 per cent of the Jordanian population fall

below this humble line. The main cause of poverty is obviously unemployment. It is not normal for a citizen to be working, earning a monthly salary, and yet staying below the line of poverty. The least that a regular working person expects is that the wage earned guarantees the basic needs of the worker's family.

Therefore, the imposition of a minimum wage, not less than JD 120 a month, would evidently be a logical step to be taken by a government that cares. No one can claim that such a level is too high. Of course actual wages may exceed the minimum wage depending on experience, circumstances and other practical considerations. Supply and demand will continue to operate and determine wages. Only there will be no ceiling, but there is a floor to be observed.

We do not ignore the negative side effects which may arise from the policy of minimum wages. For instance, it is claimed that a minimum wage will reduce demand on labour and suppress jobs which would otherwise be available. It is bound to hurt the weakest groups of job seekers. There would be little chance to employ a handicapped person, someone with little or no experience, or, for that matter, the very young and the very old.

Employers which have to pay the minimum wage anyway will naturally pick the strongest and most experienced. In this respect, I shall not dwell on the other claim that minimum wages will raise the cost of production and consequently hurt competitiveness because, on average, the payrolls in Jordan's manufacturing industries make less than 20 per cent of the overall cost of products. The salaries of only a small portion of workers will be subjected to the minimum wages as most others already earn more.

Everyone has the right to express reservations and objections to the imposition of a new policy of minimum wages, and give strong and logical arguments to support his/her position. However, the move is inevitable. It is a civilised step that is called for in the Jordanian labour market. Dr. Shakhaneh has every reason to carry on with his mission and mobilise the necessary political and professional support to put his idea into action.

## Huntington's world — fitting his theory, only

By Gwynne Dyer

IF YOU believe the doctors, nothing is wholesome; if you believe the priests, nothing is moral; if you believe the soldiers, nothing is safe. And if you believe the director of the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, we are heading for a global clash of civilisations far more intractable than the old cold war.

Professor Samuel P. Huntington, the Harvard-based academic who heads the Olin Institute, has an extensive fan club inside the Beltway. The Washington think tanks and government departments that once grew fat off the cold war were desperately in need of a credible new threat when Huntington came along in the early 90s touting a forthcoming "clash of civilisations".

It was just what they needed as pressures for disarmament mounted: a closely argued, academically respectable prediction that the "West", "Islam", and "East Asia" were heading into a long, difficult and perhaps violent confrontation. So keep your guard up and your powder dry. Give

us lots of money, in other words.

Now Huntington has done it again. His new book, "The clash of civilisations and the remaking of world order," published this month in the United States by Simon and Schuster, will be welcomed by military-industrial complexes everywhere. And it will have as much appeal to Iranian ayatollahs and Asian dictators as to the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the "Beltway bandits." If unbridgeable differences are what you need, he has got them.

Huntington's basic argument is that "modernisation" — i.e., industrialisation, urbanisation, mass education, mass media, etc. — has different effects in different cultures. It has led to democracy and individualism in Western societies, but in cultures with other traditions it will produce very different results.

This forces Huntington to argue that Iran under the ayatollahs, for example, is somehow more representative of modern Islam than Turkey, a "born" country that made the terrible mistake of emulating Western models of modernisation.

"Throughout the Muslim World," Huntington writes approvingly, "people are reacting against the 'Westoxification' of their societies."

"East Asia" (which seems to include anywhere there are significant Chinese minorities) impresses him even more. But the East Asia that wins his approval as an authentic "civilisation" is the East Asia of Deng Xiaoping's China and Lee Kwan Yew's Singapore, authoritarian states where allegedly "Western" perversions like free speech and democracy are rejected, not the East Asia of Thailand and South Korea where they are honoured.

There is a great deal of special pleading in Huntington's choice of "civilisations". Twenty-first century India, for example, is likely to be at least as great an economic power as 21st-century China. But India is a democratic country that produces less anti-Western rhetoric, so it gets far less of Huntington's attention.

And what kind of logic makes Iran, where average per capita income has fallen

by half in the past 20 years, a more authentic representative of the Muslim World than Turkey, a prosperous and powerful nation whose government is secular and democratic? Only the fact that Iran fits Huntington's model, and resonates strongly in the American psyche.

Huntington's great influence in Western political and military circles springs from the fact that he shares the market's basic prejudices: While making a great show of political correctness and cultural relativism, at bottom he completely accepts the notion (an article of faith in those circles) that modernisation is synonymous with Westernisation.

"The West," he writes, "believes that the non-Western peoples should commit themselves to the Western values of democracy, free markets, limited governments, separation of church and state, human rights, individualism, and the rule of law... but the dominant attitudes towards them in non-Western cultures range from scepticism to intense opposition." Western values? Excuse

me, Mr. Huntington, but just how many of those "Western values" did Henry VIII of England believe in? Or Louis XIV of France?

The West, until it began to modernise, subscribed to values much more conservative and hierarchical than those currently advocated by Lee Kwan Yew. Indeed, its social rules regarding the behaviour of men and women would have met with the approval of Ayatollah Khomeini, while Henry VIII, 300 years after Magna Carta, was the English-speaking world's closest approach to a Stalin.

What Huntington misses, with the arrogance typical of a certain caste of Westerners, is that the West was an absolutely typical pre-industrial society until it began to modernise. You can find individuals in the pre-modern history of every civilisation who advocated free speech, human rights and even democracy, but until modernisation began they had no chance of winning.

Once modernisation does get under way, however, their odds on success go up dramatically — and it makes no difference where

they are. Japan, India and Turkey, which are not "Western" by and stretch of the imagination, have no more trouble running free, democratic societies than Italy, Brazil and the Philippines. Which is to say that they have lots of trouble, but succeed nevertheless.

Modernisation destroys the old hierarchies everywhere, and unleashes huge social changes everywhere. Many of those changes, especially in the sphere of sex and the family, are upsetting, and some are destructive. But there's nothing particularly "Western" about the changes, except that the West was the first region of the world to go through them. Modern cultural values are not "Western," they just happen to have Western baggage.

Any other society that modernises is almost certain to go through the same changes (and suffer the same angst about them). But the only civilisations that will really fit Huntington's model are the ones that stall half way. So far, no major one has.

## Muddling through to the world's most impossible job

A panel investigating the efficiency of the U.N. has called for extensive reform and the introduction of "world class management". One place to start, according to a report by two U.N. veterans, would be to scrap the ramshackle method of filling the top job.

By Daniel Nelson

THE UNITED States has received virtually no support for its attempt to stop Boutros Ghali from taking a second term of office as United Nations Secretary-General. So Washington has given a warm welcome to the Mali Foreign Minister's comment that he is prepared to back an alternative candidate.

Dionounda Traore's condition is that the alternative candidate should be African. If the Malian stand catches on, it would be a boost for one of the strongest African candidates for the top U.N. job. Ghana's Kofi Annan, the respected undersecretary-general for peacekeeping.

And it would be a set-back for other potential candi-

dates, including Japan's Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and Irish President Mary Robinson.

Traore's insistence that any alternative must be African — to ensure that an African gets the usual two terms — is perfectly understandable given that geographic origins are traditionally a key factor in the appointment. But the overriding emphasis on geographic qualification also illustrates the absurdity of the selection process for what the first secretary-general, Trygve Lie, described as "the most impossible job on earth" — and indeed the weaknesses in the way that appointments are made for all senior jobs in the United Nations.

There is no timetable for the process of selecting a secretary-general, no methodical search for the best person, no official or body initiates the nomination of candidates, no biography is required, nobody verifies the candidates' records, there are no restrictions on campaigning (favouring those, such as Boutros Ghali, with the means or facilities to travel and promote themselves), there has been no debate for 50 years on most aspects of the job, including the custom of a five-year, renewable term.

This is no way to run a market stall, let alone an organisation struggling with dozens of emergencies around the world while trying to reform itself.

The result of this disorderly muddle is, literally, an "old-boy network" affair in which the main qualification is the ability to get past all five potential vetoes of the permanent members of the Security Council (the U.S., China, Russia, France and Britain).

To compound matters, say two U.N. veterans — former

Under Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs Brian Urquhart and the late Erskine Childers, former senior adviser to the U.N. Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation — the heads of the U.N.'s specialised agencies are also selected haphazardly, thus rendering impossible the emergence of an integrally planned U.N. team.

Their recommendations include seven-year, non-renewable terms of office for all executive-head posts; a calendar of appointments so that all agency heads are appointed early in the term of an incoming secretary-general; establishment of an active search process in order to extend the reservoir of potential candidates beyond those promoting their own nomination; standard rules for nominations.

They also urge an end to job monopolies — for example, the custom that the heads of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) should be U.S.

nationals. In the case of UNDP, Washington simply sends the secretary-general the name. (The practice extends to the even more powerful World Bank, where the president is always from the U.S., and the International Monetary Fund, where the managing director is always a European).

Urquhart and Childers point out that of the 11 executive heads to date in UNDP, UNICEF and the U.N. Population Fund — organisations charged with assisting developing countries — only four had previous working experience in Third World development, only two have been nationals of developing countries, and only two have been women.

They also point to cases of candidates and their governments promising development projects and jobs in return for support, intimidation of international civil servants into active campaigning for an incumbent's reelection, and the use of an executive head's time and travel funds for journey

seeking reelection votes. The system needs cleaning up, but unlike the vexed question of overall U.N. reform, improvements could be effected fairly simply by the adoption of procedures along the lines established in this pamphlet.

There is one problem. Urquhart and Childers say their study is based on the assumption that member governments really do wish to find the best people for the top jobs. This may be an assumption too far. They themselves admit that strong and independent leadership by the secretary-general is sometimes resented, that governments have no intention of giving up control of the U.N., and that many U.S. politicians are questioning the basic rationale of the U.N.

A well-qualified secretary-general with a coordinated team of agency heads would fill them with fear rather than hope.

Gemini News Service

## Children are better off, but the world's effort must continue

By Carol Bellamy

GENEVA — Pessimists be advised: Progress towards improving the human condition exists and is gaining ground. Optimists be warned: Unless momentum is maintained, these gains may be lost.

In September 1990, world leaders from 159 countries gathered in New York for a World Summit for Children, in an effort to set ambitious Year 2000 goals for the survival, protection and development of children. The Washington Post called the meeting a "world summit long overdue."

Midway through a decade of significant progress on behalf of children, it is now

clear just how overdue it was.

At the United Nations, data from nearly two-thirds of the countries that accepted the summit challenge have been under study. A report by the secretary-general confirms that real progress is being made.

The generation of the 1990s is already the largest ever. When it becomes the first to reach adulthood in the 21st century, it will be the best fed, healthiest, most literate and longest-lived in human history.

The achievements reported thus far are remarkable. On target, about 80 per cent of children under age 1 are now immunised against the major diseases of childhood, and 89 countries have already reached

the Year 2000 goal of 90 per cent. Polio may soon be eradicated, never again to twist children's limbs, and measles cases are down by 90 per cent in most countries.

The use of simple oral rehydration, therapy to combat diarrhoea that causes nearly a fourth of all deaths of children under age 5 has doubled.

Despite a large increase in births, an estimated million fewer children under age 5 will die this year than in 1990.

Also remarkable are the ways these goals are being achieved. Government in more than 150 countries have drawn up national programmes of action, and citizens in 70 of these countries have created grassroots initiatives for children at the community level, where

change really touches lives.

There are, of course, disappointments. Unresolved issues such as how to provide better nutrition, halt the abomination of child exploitation and attack the causes of maternal mortality remain as reminders of just how challenging our Year 2000 goals really are.

If we haven't completely reached the heights we are aiming for, there are reasons. Crushing debt burdens and civil wars, especially in Africa, have held back some countries to the point where it is clear that they will not reach the goals on schedule. In some republics of the former Soviet Union, social services have deteriorated as transition of free market economies has left the most vulnerable without

accustomed safety nets.

In 1993, UNICEF estimated that \$25 billion a year in extra resources would be enough to meet the basic needs of every man, woman and child for adequate food, safe water, primary health care, family planning and basic education. That relatively small injection of money has not materialised, and international aid is at its lowest level in 20 years.

Developing countries spend more on debt servicing and armed services than on these basic needs, and little more than 6 per cent of the \$40 billion international bilateral and actual goes to the social sector. Thus, much of the funds required could be found by reallocating existing resources. We must be mindful that

reaching the goals is not an end in itself, and that sustaining performance is the crucial end product. Progress should not be judged solely on whether every goal is technically on target, but rather on whether the process for affecting real change is succeeding, and whether the momentum can continue to grow.

In elections around the world this year, we hear many promises about making a better future for children. No new blueprints are needed. We have proof that the promises of the summit for children were not just rhetoric. The goals are what we all want and what children deserve.

International Herald Tribune

Featur

Com

zero

The approach of the year 2000 is worrying thousands of businesses because their computers have not been programmed to take of the new century

By Arlene Getz

NEW YEAR'S Eve revelers will not be alone when they wake up with hangovers on the first day of the year 2000. Computer experts also face a major headache.

The problem is that much of the world's computer software has not been programmed to advance into a new century — and will turn their clocks back to 1900. It is a problem which could throw business, government and banking into chaos.

The year 2000 date change poses one of the most significant challenges ever faced by the IT industry. Kevin Schuck, research director of the Connecticut-based Garner Group providing IT advisory services, told a U.S. congressional subcommittee.

"It will have enormous impact on business applications, package solutions and system software, even putting some companies at risk in their business. The bottom line is that the year 2000 'virus' is the most devastating ever to infect the world's business and IT systems."

In fact, the problem is less a computer virus than the arrival of a day that pioneering programmers thought may never come. It arises from the fact that the makers of early software were tried to save valuable storage space by allowing two digits instead of four to record a specific year. Thus 1996 is stored in data files as 96 and 2000 will appear in millions of data files as 00.

Time-sensitive computers will not like to be told they have been returned to a pre-electronic era. In a fit of technological apoplexy, they may respond either by shutting down or by distorting calculations because they believe 00 is an earlier date than 99.

OCEVILLE, France (AP) — Even though they were halted 16 years ago, nuclear weapons tests remain the chief source of radioactive pollution of the world's oceans, according to scientists.

Between 1945 and 1995, the fallout from such tests produced 100 times more radioactive aerosols than the meltdown of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine in 1986. The worst energy industry accident to date. Total activity generated by those postwar tests registered as 2,500 million becquerels (units measuring radioactive decay). The findings have been under study here this week at a symposium for 2000 organised by France's nuclear safety institute, the French ministry of culture, fisheries and forestry. They were making an inventory of radioactive materials in the sea. A second round is scheduled for Norway next April.



## Computer countdown to zero hour 'catastrophe'

## Standards for the 21st century: Internet telephony has taken off

**The approach of the first day of the year 2000 is worrying thousands of businesses worldwide because their computers have not been programmed to take account of the new century.**

By Arlene Getz

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The problem is that much of the world's computer software has not been programmed to advance into a new century — and will turn their clocks back to 1900.

It may sound trivial, but it is a problem which could throw business, government and banking into chaos.

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Time-sensitive computers will not like to be told they have been returned to a pre-electronic era. In a fit of technological apoplexy, they may respond either by shutting down or by distorting calculations because they believe 00 is an earlier date than 99.

"A financial spreadsheet or projection, therefore, might show the financial trend for the 1999-2000 period running backwards rather than forwards," explains New York computer law expert Jeff Jinnett.

Insurance companies might believe that a policy due to expire in 2001 had run out in 1901. "A non-compliant bank computer calculating interest for a financial instrument for the period of 1995 through the year 2000 might instead calculate the interest for the period of 1900 through 1995 — for a 96-year period instead of a six-year period," says Jinnett.

The consequences of such incorrect calculations are enormous.

Automatic banking machines could reject credit cards they deem to have expired 100 years earlier. Governments which keep computer-based records to determine information such as a citizen's age may find their software claiming that a 60-year-old is really minus 40, and therefore not eligible for pension or social security payments.

It is hard to predict how many of these digital doomsday scenarios will take place. Many companies have already begun a scramble to reprogramme their software.

Numerous conferences are being organised by software manufacturers offering various debugging solutions.

At least one site on the global Internet computer network (Internet address: <http://www.year2000.com>) has generated a lively exchange of ideas on how to cope with what site founder Peter de Jager describes as a looming "catastrophe".

There are also those who believe the problem has been exaggerated by technology firms hoping to generate business.

Software management consultant Nicholas Zvegintsov, for example, calls the predictions "a huge and unique racket." In an article in the journal American Programmer he writes: "The problem is free, but solutions are for sale."

Whatever the hype, it is



clear that computer systems around the world will experience some sort of disruption over the next few years. For some, such as those using forecasting software, the problem has already begun.

In other cases, the Wall Street Journal has reported that at least one large insurer has had to stop writing four-year policies and may have to stop selling three-year policies next year if it cannot correct its software.

While many of the problems can and will be corrected, doing so will be an expensive and time-consuming endeavour. Rather

than simply changing the date on a computer, billions of lines of computer programming will have to be changed.

**"Whatever the hype, it is clear that computer systems around the world will experience some sort of disruption over the next few years. For some, such as those using forecasting software, the problem has already begun."**

One firm, the Prudential Insurance Company of America, is reportedly budgeting \$150 million to correct 125 million lines

of code. The Gartner Group estimates the final cost to businesses worldwide will be between \$300 billion and \$600 billion.

by 1999 — and even then, 30 per cent of computer applications will not be ready in time.

This, in turn, could generate major legal problems in determining who should be held liable when companies or clients suffer losses because of the date change.

"This is not a problem for 2000," says Gartner Group vice-president Darlene Brown. "This is a problem for today."

Arlene Getz, a former southern African correspondent, now based in Boston, writes a regular column on news from cyberspace. This article is reprinted from the Gemini News Service.

WHEN VocalTec launched the first commercial software to support telephone calls across the Internet in February 1995, a media blitz followed. More than 5,000 newspaper and magazine articles appeared across the globe.

Some predicted the end of telephone companies because carriers would be deprived of their international call revenue as everyone moved to the Internet. Others predicted that the Internet would buckle under the weight of voice traffic, which in any case it was not designed to handle. Still others scoffed that the technology would never take off, since the line quality was poor and setting up a call complicated.

Last year, VocalTec's unruffled president and CEO, Elon Ganor, insisted, "The telcos ultimately will make money out of this because they all have so much dark fiber (unused fiber optic plant) — perhaps 60 per cent to 70 per cent of their available bandwidth is idle — that it will not take away from their existing revenue streams; indeed, it will generate new traffic."

It seems he was right. The main U.S. carriers — which in theory would be hardest hit because the vast majority of Internet users are in the United States — have jumped on the bandwagon. AT&T is expected to launch its own voice over the Internet service. MCI is expected to make an announcement soon, while Sprint is a charter member of the pressure group Voice Over Networks.

This group was formed in response to small and medium-sized transmission capacity resellers' petitioning the U.S. regulator, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to ban Internet telephony — which the FCC refused to do.

Although there are still concerns that voice across the Internet will cause severe congestion and downgrade service for all users, Scott Wharton, VocalTec's product manager for New Jersey-based Internet Phone, says concerns are exaggerated. "Even with all the overheads, the compressed voice technology we are using only takes up 10kbit/s. Compare that with someone using Netscape (the most popular browser software used to located information on the Internet). It would take up every bit of bandwidth supplied by a fast modem or ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) link to download a graphic."

According to a recent

study published by IDC of Framingham, Massachusetts, half a million people all over the world are already using Internet telephony, and 94 per cent of them are thought to be using VocalTec's products. The consultancy expects the worldwide market to grow from being worth around \$3.5 million in 1995 to \$560 million by 1999.

Video version

Mr. Wharton says technological advances in the Internet Phone have been "staggering" since its launch last year and that VocalTec is testing a video phone version. The company already sells a product that allows an on-screen "whiteboard" to be shared so that two parties can work on a document or graphic while discussing it.

The Internet Phone Telephony Gateway is the product that VocalTec believes will take Internet telephony out of the realms of early adopters and into the corporate mainstream. It was developed in conjunction with Dialogic, one of the leading companies in voice technologies. The gateway enables people who are both using Internet Phones to speak to each other; it also allows a phone call between two people using the regular public network or between people with one party using Internet telephony and the other a conventional phone.

Mr. Wharton describes it as "a heavy-duty corporate solution, particularly for communication within companies, between remote offices. Cable companies, telcos and Internet access providers are snapping it up to offer the service to their own customers," he says.

Even at the basic level, the original Internet Phone has been much improved. The latest version, Release 4.0, was launched in June. According to Mr. Wharton, it has been so well received that the company's business has grown by 300 per cent. He says that quality will continue to improve as users upgrade their PCs to faster Pentium-based computers.

Some sort of regulation will probably be necessary to the Internet, since it seems highly unlikely that the current development rate can be sustained without eventually overloading the infrastructure.

What to do or how to do it are still unanswered questions, but the Internet community and the ITU are talking.

International Herald Tribune

## Oceans, the dustbin of nuclear history

## Fish — food for the world or just the few?

By Alan Baldwin  
Reuters

ROME — The popular aid agency adage used to be that if you gave a man a fish, he ate for one day. If you taught him how to fish, he ate for life.

If only it were still that straightforward.

Fishing, once a matter of casting a net into the sea or hooking with rod and line, is under increasing pressure as the world struggles to feed its famished mouths.

Depleted marine stocks, environmental concern about fish farming in much of the world and ever greater demands on limited water supplies have put the squeeze on resources.

This week an expected 100 heads of state and government gathered in Rome for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) world food summit to pledge to reduce the number of under-nourished to 400 million by 2015.

They will agree that the world, with some 800 million people lacking enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs, must act to increase production significantly.

Fishing is expected to make its contribution.

FAO experts believe that, despite little apparent room for manoeuvre, fishing could play a major role although the initial picture does not look particularly promising.

"The potential for a dramatic increase in the total supply of fish is very limited, no more than one or two per cent per year probably, and even that would be optimistic," said Jorge Csirke, senior fishery resources officer at the Rome-based FAO.

"As far as wild resources are concerned, we are not yet at the limit but very close to it. The room for expansion is basically limited to non-traditional stocks."

Using existing technology, all are expensive to catch and not easily acceptable to many people. One such stock — the tiny shrimps called krill — are also a staple for whales and therefore environmentally sensitive.

However, cutting the size of fleets could increase the size of catches and reduce costs due to greater efficiency.

But another way of

increasing the amount of fish caught for food lies simply in changed usage.

"Out of the 100,000 tonnes of fish which is being caught, a good share of this is used for fish meal, which is ultimately being eaten by human beings because it is being used to feed chickens, cows, pork, salmon and other fish," said Mr. Csirke.

Ironically, farms producing salmon and other "luxury" species consume more fish than they produce — with huge amounts of marine fish being ground up to feed them.

"Just diverting a small fraction of what is now being used for fishmeal into human consumption will make a huge difference," Mr. Csirke, a Peruvian whose country is one of the world's biggest producers of fishmeal, told Reuters.

Peru turns between eight and 10 million tonnes of anchovies and sardines into fishmeal a year, a quantity that no market in the world could currently absorb as food for humans.

The obstacles to conversion are mainly financial, with fishmeal requiring none of the refrigeration or

canning costs that make producing frozen or tinned fish so expensive.

"The problem in Peru is that if you bring in fish for fishmeal, you get paid around \$7 per tonne," said Mr. Csirke.

"I am sure that any of these boat owners, if there was someone prepared to pay them \$150 a tonne for the same fish kept on ice, will sell it for human consumption. The problem is that there is no-one prepared to pay for it."

The problem is also in finding a cheap vegetable replacement such as soya to feed livestock with.

Other solutions range from science fiction to the mundane. But most require some tough political decisions to be made and deep-seated cultural obstacles to be overcome.

Robin Welcomme, chief of FAO's inland water resources and aquaculture service, said "aquaculture" or fish farming was the fastest growing form of fishing and suggested that the future could involve solutions worthy of Jules Verne.

In the future the scale may become even bigger. "It is technically feasible

to have large sea farms with vessels looking after them," Mr. Welcomme said.

Transgenics — altering a fish's genetic make-up to make it more suitable to certain climates — is also being investigated although it is controversial and distrusted by many.

An example might be tilapia, a mild-tasting, easily-filleted white fish with few bones that grows to a reasonable size and which could be altered to increase its ability to live in salt water as well as fresh.

Mr. Welcomme said fish farming has grown by about seven per cent a year in the last decade and there seemed to be no sign of growth tapering off at present.

"At the moment we estimate that one fish in five that is eaten comes from aquaculture," he said.

Some 70 per cent of this production was accounted for by Asian and central European farms while large areas of Africa and Latin America had high potential, although land and water ownership rights frequently posed problems.

OCTEVILLE, France (AFP) — Even though they were halted 16 years ago, atmospheric nuclear weapons tests remain the chief source of radioactive pollution of the world's oceans, according to research data compiled by scientists.

Between 1945 and 1980, the fallout from such tests produced 100 times more radioactive aerosols than the meltdown of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine in 1986, the atomic energy industry's worst accident to date.

Total activity generated by those postwar tests registered as 2,500 million terabecquerels (units measuring radioactive decay).

The findings have been under study here this week at a symposium for 200 scientists from 27 countries organised by France's nuclear safety institute and the British ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food. They were making an inventory of radionuclides and their flux in the sea. A second session scheduled for Norwich, England, next April will

examine the impact of artificial radioactivity on marine environments.

At the atmospheric test sites themselves, there was very strong exposure to radiation at the moment of the explosion, but no serious contamination because the radioactive cloud was each time propelled very quickly to an altitude of more than 10,000 metres.

Maximum concentrations of plutonium 239 inside the Mururoa lagoons in French Polynesia in the south Pacific gave the low reading in 1986 of 620 millibecquerels per cubic metre of water. The symposium contrasted that figure with the 250,000 millibecquerels registered in 1975 in the Irish Sea, where nuclear fuel reprocessing plants at Sellafield and Dounreay in Britain and at La Hague in France discharge their waste.

The effluent has been reduced tenfold since 1980, but the Irish Sea still contains one of the highest concentrations of caesium 137 and plutonium. The sea is shallow and has weak currents, making it easy for radionuclides to settle on the seabed and keep emitting some radiation.

It is all evidence of how the seas and oceans have been used as the dustbins of nuclear history. They contain the waste matter left over from civilian uses of atomic energy. They are also littered with the radioactive detritus of its military applications — missile parts, torpedoes, bombs, complete nuclear submarines, satellites using nuclear generators. They were mislaid or deliberately dumped like so much every day rubbish in the belief the waters would absorb no matter what.

Plotting the ocean depths and their sediments and observing the behaviour of currents, the scientists have reached the uncomfortable conclusion that few parts of the seaways have escaped radiation poisoning. They say reassuringly that danger to human life is limited because of the rate of dilution of the radionuclides.

But that still leaves the nuclear reactors of 16 Soviet submarines and the icebreaker Lenin squatting menacingly where they were dumped in the Arctic waters of the Barents and Kara seas a mere 380 metres (1,254 feet) down.

# Rich tell poor nations to do more for themselves

ROME (R) — The world's "haves" told the "have nots" to do more for their own people as rich nations responded to appeals for greater support for the hungry at a U.N.-sponsored World Food Summit.

Saudi Arabia and European powerhouse Germany were among wealthy countries that told the five-day summit, called to discuss how to provide food security for a booming population, that aid to the developing world was not enough on its own.

"The dependence of some developing countries, to a large degree, on food aid provided by the developed countries and some international organisations is not the optimal solution in the long run," Saudi Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Bin Muanir said in a speech.

"Thus, those countries must be prepared to encounter the food security problem with more seriousness, realism, determination and self-dependence...on their own resources, potentialities and people," he said.

The summit, which opened Wednesday at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the shadow of the refugee crisis in eastern Zaire, has failed to attract a significant number of leaders from the world's richest countries.

German Agriculture Minister Jochen Borchert said a non-binding plan of action adopted by the summit to halve the world's hungry from 840 million in 20

years depended on the principle of self-reliance in agriculture.

He said social and economic success and efficient, environmentally sound farming were best achieved where "human rights are respected and freedom and democracy reign".

"Preconditions for success are, on the one hand, effective international coordination and monitoring. On the other hand, success will depend primarily on the developing countries' own efforts," he said.

FAO estimates that 75 per cent more food will have to be produced in the next 30 years as the planet's population surges from 5.7 billion to 8.7 billion by 2030. But the agency also says enough food is now grown to feed the existing population.

The contrast between plenty and poverty has been a theme running through the summit, with many speakers from developing countries panning excessive consumption in the rich world and cuts in development aid budgets and soft loans.

The president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, acknowledged on Thursday that the bank had more than halved its support for Third World agriculture over the past 10 years to \$2.6 billion.

Mr. Wolfensohn said the bank, whose clients are governments outside the industrialised world, would spend more to tackle rural poverty but said numbers were not the only factor.

"We should not measure

ourselves in terms of the dollars we spend but how wisely we spend. I don't want to get into a dollar race," Mr. Wolfensohn told a news briefing.

The food summit is the last in a series of major U.N. conferences held over the past four years to set the global agenda on how to confront key challenges in the 21st century.

All, including the Rome meeting which ends on Sunday, have resorted to compromise to secure agreement and generated scepticism that few of the commitments will be put into action.

British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker voiced frustration at the tide of talk and called for less duplication by United Nations agencies.

"I for one — and there are many others — think that implementing action plans for our fellow human beings must be at the top of all our agendas, not more summits. We have had enough of them," Ms. Chalker told delegates.

While leaders of rich and poor nations haggle at the U.N.'s food headquarters over who should be blamed for world hunger, unseen computers are preparing potentially crucial decisions about food planning upstairs.

Technocrats at the FAO's headquarters are trying to figure out exactly how much grain should be held in the world's silos after a year of plunging grain stocks triggered a United Nations alarm.

"To keep the wheels of

commerce running we need to have some spare stocks in hand," a senior FAO commodity specialist said.

Experts say finding the right safety margin has important political implications though it is not for the faint-hearted.

To perform their calculations, officials have to be able to juggle concepts like "carry-out," "carry-in" and "coefficients of variation".

The FAO is working on possible changes to a warning system on food security created during a 1970s food scare.

When grain stocks drop below 17 or 18 per cent of a year's average consumption, or enough supplies for eight weeks, the world is meant to sit up and take notice.

The alarm went off earlier this year when bad weather forced grain stocks to their lowest level since the system was invented, driving wheat and corn prices to record highs.

Grain stocks are currently at 15.4 per cent of annual demand.

But some Western nations have deliberately lowered stocks to erase past surpluses and want the FAO barometer changed.

"The grain situation is actually not as bad as it seems. We now have nearly record harvests this year," a U.S. official said on the sidelines of the World Food Summit.

U.S. officials are said to be among those who believe the world can manage with lower stocks than in the past, because freer global trading rules have

made markets more flexible.

But Prime Minister Lee Soo-Sung of South Korea, one of Asia's leading grain importers, told the summit that the world needed to stick to a "preventive strategy" on storing spare food.

"Countries, food importing countries in particular, should secure the appropriate level of reserve stocks and develop effective means to deal with possible disruptive developments in the world food market," he said.

Grain-exporting Canada, distancing itself from the mainly market-based approach advanced by Washington at the summit, is ready to propose a world food reserve to protect importers from sudden price shocks, diplomats have said.

The FAO's 174 nations have recognised the political nature of the debate over stocks by leaving the final decision on whether to change the 17-18 per cent

threshold to an inter-governmental meeting next year, officials said.

One international food official at the summit suggested developing countries would oppose lowering the barrier, which they regard as a way of keeping policy-makers focused on the need to keep up production and maintain pressure on costs.

"If you were an exporter and prices were high, would you want other people planting fence-to-fence? No, so you see the problem," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

FAO officials say their spreadsheets have not yet provided an answer on whether to lower or raise the level of stocks regarded as the minimum necessary to ensure smooth supplies.

But they stress the system is only a signal to policy-makers, not a prediction of where volatile grain prices are heading.

## Syria makes more than \$1b in tourism

CAIRO (AFP) — Syria received almost 2.5 million tourists in 1995, who generated more than \$1 billion in revenue, Tourism Minister Danho Daud said in a report Friday.

These figures, reported in the Arabic daily Al Hayat, represent a substantial increase from numbers reported in previous years by the Syrian tourism ministry, when about 500,000 tourists visited Syria annually.

Mr. Daud added that several tourist projects had been constructed in the past few years and that laws had been passed to promote foreign investment in the tourism sector.

He told the newspaper that 300 permits had been granted over the last three years for the construction of hotels and restaurants.

Mr. Daud said there had also been cooperation between Lebanon and Syria in the area of tourism, with the inauguration of a project called "Mona Rosa" on the highway linking Lebanon and Syria.

At a cost of \$10 million, this project includes hotels, restaurants, pools, stores and gardens, Mr. Daud said.

The tourism minister added that he would soon start a similar project called "City Garden" on the road leading to the Damascus airport.

## UNIDO warns of conflict if poorer nations not helped

VIENNA (R) — Industrialised nations must join forces to help developing countries benefit from increasing globalisation or face new trade wars and social and political conflict, a U.N. body has warned.

Launching its 1996 report, the Vienna-based United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) said poorer nations must be helped by "effective management of sustainable development".

"Without a commitment to more sustainable and equitable

development, a revival of trade wars, the breakdown of alliances, social and political conflict and growing demographic pressures could ensue," a UNIDO statement said.

The income gap between the richest and poorest 20 per cent of the world's people had widened to 17.1 to one in 1989 from a ratio of 11.1 to one in 1960, the 240-page report said. Although the share of developing countries in terms of world manufacturing had grown to 19.8 per cent from 17.4 per

cent in the last 10 years, the rise had not been equal across the board. East and South East Asia had benefited substantially from the globalisation process while sub-Saharan Africa had been largely excluded, it added.

"Without a critical mass of skilled workers, management service, researchers, the new technologies so crucial to global competitiveness will neither be developed nor effectively transferred," it said.

The report called for "the adoption of supportive domestic

politics coupled with a leading role for the private sector" to prevent countries from being marginalised in globalisation.

"Globalisation demands that governments oversee the economic process to ensure that competition is efficient and equitable and to foster the private sector's active participation in international trade, production and technology," it said.

The report urged the international community to reassess its strategy towards poorer nations and to promote investment and partnership for development over development aid. UNIDO said it could play the part of "honest broker" in helping countries make the transition to a market economy.

## REUTERS • REUTERS •

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.5090	0.8011	1.2785	111.05	1.3384	1518.18	1.6922	6.1055
DE Mark	0.6627	-	0.3981	0.8471	73.58	0.8867	1005.75	1.1213	3.3629
GB Sterling	1.6835	2.5115	-	2.1261	184.73	2.2264	2525.49	2.8150	8.4930
CH Franc	0.7822	1.1798	0.4699	-	86.84	1.0464	1187.01	1.3233	3.9918
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3582	0.5409	1.1508	-	1.2047	13.67	152.31	4.5954
CA Dollar	0.7472	1.1178	0.4541	0.9401	1.20	-	1133.38	1.2529	3.7917
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9933	0.3956	0.8842	1359.11	0.8810	-	11.14	3.3607
NL Guilder	0.5908	88.15	0.3550	75.54	65.58	0.7907	896.90	-	1.0162
FR Franc	0.1959	0.2955	0.1177	25.0367	21.73	0.2621	33.14	33.1400	-

Energy		
Oil's	Last	Previous
Brent	23.50	23.85
W. Texas	24.10	24.30
Bony	23.50	23.85
Dubai	21.85	21.95
UL Gas	219.00	224.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4025	0.16029	0.34103	29.6235
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.411	0.16367	0.34824	30.2489
KW Dinar	3.3512	0.55817	2.0145	4.28633	372.301
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.8032	1.59464	3.39213	294.724
CY Pound	2.1724	3.2782	1.3055	2.7774	241.245

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (m's)	380	380.5
Silver (m's)	4.94	4.96
Platinum (m's)	384.5	385.5
AL (3 Months)	1440	1443
CU (3 Months)	2138	2143
Zinc (3 Months)	1062	1066
Lead (3 Months)	723	728
NI (3 Months)	7020	7060

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Period	1	3	6	9	12
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.25	5.37	5.40	5.48	5.55
GBP	5.03	5.40	5.59	5.78	5.87
JPY	0.34	0.34	0.51	0.50	0.59
DEM	2.84	3.08	3.06	3.10	3.15
FRF	3.30	3.33	3.42	3.45	3.53
CHF	1.72	1.88	2.00	1.93	2.18
ITL	7.50	7.29	6.96	6.76	6.65

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lb)	119.33	Spot
Cocoa (5/ton)	1365	Spot
Sugar (5/ton)	310.5	Spot
Wheat (5/ton)	140	Spot
Soya (c/lb)	22.23	Spot
Tes (5/100)	118	Spot
Barley (5/ton)	2.24	Spot
Rice (5/ton)	470	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1766	1.1825
DE Mark	0.4688	0.4709
CHF Franc	0.853	0.8558
FR Franc	0.1387	0.1394
JP Yen	0.6396	0.6398
NL Guilder	0.4179	0.42
IT Lira	0.4659	0.4682

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Be uncomplicated in stating your wishes to others today, and then later tonight go after outside activities with much enthusiasm.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Get monetary matters nicely arranged in the morning today, and then later tonight go after outside activities with much enthusiasm.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get personal affairs handled early this morning and then later you can work on monetary matters which can bring you an abundance.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get rid of limiting conditions at this time and then go to greater aims and gain greater success with the assistance of knowledgeable persons.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Complete whatever has been started and gain personal aims. Try to please your friends. Settle down to a quiet evening with your mate.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Try to get outside affairs wisely handled with bigwigs today, and then later you can take care of your finest personal aims.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You can solve some new conditions at this time so get busy at them, and show your finest talents to a bigwig who can help with your success.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day today for making out reports, paying bills and making collections, before you look into some new outlet.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You can make an agreement with a fellow associate in a most conscientious manner. The evening can be happy with your mate.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) There are many small tasks which need to be completed today, so get at them early, and then later this evening you can be with a fellow associate.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Get upcoming social affairs nicely arranged with fellow associates. Get a talent developed for your prosperity. Don't neglect to handle your routine duties.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get busy at all the duties awaiting your attention at this time, and later tonight you can join a good friend at recreations you both enjoy.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

## Business Regional b low cost tr

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries are working on a low cost travel and easier regulations among the countries in the region.

Mr. Daud said that several tourist projects had been constructed in the past few years and that laws had been passed to promote foreign investment in the tourism sector.

He told the newspaper that 300 permits had been granted over the last three years for the construction of hotels and restaurants.

Mr. Daud said there had also been cooperation between Lebanon and Syria in the area of tourism, with the inauguration of a project called "Mona Rosa" on the highway linking Lebanon and Syria.

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## Regional body to attract more tourists through low cost travel and easier visa regulations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of eight Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries are working on low cost travel and easier visa regulations among the eight as a major segment in efforts to attract more tourists to the region.

Officials representing the Middle East Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMTTA), one of the institutions that sprang from the MENA conferences held in Casablanca and Amman in 1994 and 1995, said facilitating cross-border travel is perhaps the most important key to developing tourism.

The executive council of MEMTTA includes representatives from the eight member states — Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Cyprus and Turkey. Elhamy Elzayat, chairman of the council, said that one of the first MEMTTA projects is to have an arrangement under which a tourist could fly into any of the eight countries on an air ticket that also allows him to travel among the eight and leave from any.

"Of course this would take a lot of work since it involves the traffic rights of the airlines concerned, but since all the member countries are represented in the executive council the process could be facilitated," Mr. Elzayat told a press conference in Cairo on the fringes of last week's MENA conference.

Also envisaged are easier visa regulations and perhaps, at a later stage, something like the eight-country Schengen arrangement of the European Union (EU) under which a visa issued by any country which is party to the agreement is valid for all other seven member countries of the accord.

Unlike some of the other

institutions springing from the MENA conferences, MEMTTA, which is headquartered in Tunis, has also the distinction of being financially supported by both the U.S. and the European Union.

Addressing the MENA conference, Mr. Elzayat noted that tourism was one of the first areas to benefit from the Middle East peace process and, as such, the private sector is taking a keen interest in investing in the sector.

"To increase travel to and from the region while strengthening the common global network of companies that are actually providing the services, the association (MEMTTA) is emphasizing destination marketing, training and investment in the region," he said.

The close involvement of American Express, one of the leading services company around the globe, is an outstanding example of the private sector's interest.

Jim Li, a senior executive from American Express who chairs the MEMTTA America's decision, told the conference: "What is missing from most country promotions is a way to promote sites across national boundaries. Increasing this

## Work begins on first Palestinian industrial park

KARNI CROSSING, Gaza Strip (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat broke ground here Friday for the first Palestinian industrial park, one of nine planned to provide badly needed jobs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

At a ceremony attended by U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk and the director of the U.S. Agency for International Development Christopher Crowley, Mr. Arafat said the first stage of the Gaza industrial estate would be completed within six months, but he provided no details on the source of funding.

Mr. Crowley said the United States would provide support for off-site infrastructure for Karni and

help create "the appropriate enabling environment to encourage investors" in the project.

"However, making the estate a reality will require continued cooperation and collaboration among all of the parties, including the Palestinians. National Authority, the government of Israel ... and the donor community," he said.

As part of the Oslo peace process, three industrial parks were to be created with Israeli and Western financial help in the Gaza Strip and six in the West Bank to draw foreign investment to the Palestinian territories. But the projects have been slow to get off the ground, in part due to disputes with Israel over

their location and to the discouraging economic impact of Israel's repeated restrictions on movement in and out of the territories.

At Friday's ceremony, Mr. Arafat demanded the immediate lifting of the restrictions, which he said were costing the Palestinian areas "\$7 to \$9 million per day."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a Mideast economic conference in Cairo last week that the zones would be "magnets for investment, jobs and especially for hope," saying economic conditions in the territories needed to be improved quickly "if we are to give Palestinians a full and tangible stake in peace."

### Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Muasher: Jordan lacks good, wise management

\*\* FORMER MINISTER Anis Muasher described the Amman economic summit last year as the most successful and as a great accomplishment in terms of organization and performance but, he pointed out, that the summit did not bring the hoped-for gain and benefit to Jordan and no returns in general were felt in the region. He indicated that attracting Arab and foreign investments to Jordan does not need conferences, meetings and invitations inasmuch as preparing the adequate climate for investment. "If the investment climate is suitable, the investors will bring their capital without invitation," Dr. Muasher said.

Dr. Muasher stressed that the Kingdom was not ready to attract investments and said Jordan should rearrange its internal situation noting that Volkswagen and Nestle were willing to set up projects in Jordan but have decided against that move after failing to agree with the concerned authorities on the investment. He gave the example of the Intel company which invested about \$1b in Israel and noted that Tel Aviv paid \$50 million from state funds to build a plant for the company as the Israeli government was well aware of the benefits it would reap from housing a \$1000 million investment.

Speaking at a meeting of the Amman Rotary Club-West, Dr. Muasher called for forming a unified public opinion from the parties and public activists to specify the imbalances and take the government to task. He saw bureaucracy and customs as the main impediments to investments and said that customs procedures have become so complicated to the extent that it seems impossible to change. Dr. Muasher urged substituting customs with sales tax as he blamed customs for the high cost of living in Jordan.

He called for lifting restrictions on capital movement and noted that the Central Bank measures and restrictions on foreign exchange trigger fears among investors over the strength of the dinar in the future. Dr. Muasher also criticized the services that Jordan provides and described them as "below the levels which might serve new investments."

He called for raising the per capita income in the Kingdom and said there was something wrong in the economic regulations and the financial policies if the level of the per capita income remains around \$1,200 a year.

Dr. Muasher, who is the president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and the Secretary-General of the Wa'ed Party, pointed out that Jordan was rich in the qualified and trained human resources and enjoyed security and stability but all what it lacked is the "good and wise management."

He accused the present and previous governments of not being serious to privatise Royal Jordanian, saying that talk of such a process had been going on for eight years without any action being taken.

He concluded by raising the issue of telephones which, he said, "practically hinder the flow of investments to the Kingdom." (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

## Debt reduction machinery seen ready for early start-up

PARIS (AFP) — Key international finance institutions and donors gave a fresh boost to an international debt plan for highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) in two days of talks that wound up here on Friday, officials said.

The IMF and World Bank secured "unanimous support" for their joint debt initiative from about 18 multilateral regional development banks and aid funds, and expect it to reach take-off point within the next few weeks, senior participants said.

The plan, for the first time opening up for write-downs of debt owed to multilateral institutions, was endorsed by the 180 members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington on Sept. 30.

IMF and bank officials held their first round of talks since the Washington annual meetings with envoys from about 30 potential donor countries to discuss emerging proce-

dures and technical arrangements and sound them out on their contributions.

Uganda, which has "gone through all the motions" to qualify for aid under the plan, seems set to be the first country to exit from strenuous repetitive debt rescheduling exercises and ever-growing debt burdens, by year-end or early in 1997, debt experts said.

Mozambique, due to go before the Paris Club of official creditors here on Nov. 20, is also hoping to benefit from the scheme, its finance minister said privately here this week.

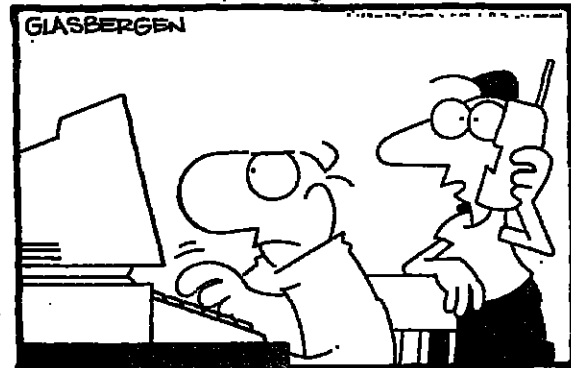
Other debtors considered likely early beneficiaries include Bolivia, Ivory Coast and Ethiopia.

The scheme aims at cutting to manageable proportions the total debt of those poor debtors, mostly in Africa, that show a track record of economic adjustment and reforms — so they can focus on developing their economies and tackling poverty.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER, AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607172 / 607178											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 16/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW			SHARES	TRADED	JD	PRICE	PRICE			
252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.5	1.42	1	120	29520	246.00	246.00	-	-
4.700	4.250	CLARO AMMAN BANK	8.8	3.52	1	2500	10625	4.40	4.25	-0.15	-
1.250	1.100	MED. EAST. INV. BK.	70.3	0.00	7	3050	3276	1.08	1.07	-0.01	-
2.700	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.2	6.19	1	250	563	2.25	2.25	-	-
1.200	1.180	JOR. GULF BANK	5.3	7.87	19	85350	75962	89	89	-	-
4.100	3.400	JOR. ATLANTIC BANK	17.7	0.00	3	1000	3683	3.70	3.48	-0.22	-
3.930	1.400	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	2	437	662	1.50	1.52	0.02	-
3.380	1.800	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITRA)	1.1	8.29	3	850	1541	1.85	1.81	-0.04	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 188.24	%CHG: -0.03	37	93557	125830	
3.050	2.600	JORDAN GULF INSUR.	5.8	5.81	1	1050	2709	2.72	2.58	-0.14	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 118.19	%CHG: 0.00	1	1050	2709	
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC POR.	11.0	7.55	4	2000	4770	1.59	1.59	-	-
3.660	3.230	JORDAN INTEL. INV. EDUC.	13.4	5.88	1	2600	8840	3.40	3.40	-	-
1.270	1.060	ZARA EDUCATION	9	0.00	3	950	988	1.04	1.04	-	-
2.430	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	8.9	5.88	4	750	1275	1.71	1.70	-0.01	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 108.69	%CHG: -0.03	12	7300	15873	
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.7	3.08	2	2100	6907	3.28	3.27	-0.01	-
5.960	4.780	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.3	3.51	3	700	3990	5.74	5.70	-0.04	-
10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.2	8.77	9	2940	26823	9.12	9.12	-	-
3.750	1.450	INDUSTRIAL COM. COR.	26.2	0.00	1	150	293	1.95	1.95	-	-
4.870	3.100	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	17.4	6.33	5	423	1342	3.32	3.16	-0.16	-
2.420	1.660	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	9.3	7.14	2	200	338	1.75	1.68	-0.07	-
3.310	2.500	GENERAL PRINTING	6.5	11.90	1	100	252	2.65	2.52	-0.13	-
12.550	9.000	ARAB CHEM. INDUS.	24.3	3.37	2	150	1335	9.00	8.90	-0.10	-
1.800	1.060	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	27	26750	14288	55	53	-0.02	-
1.090	0.550	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	7.8	9.01	3	900	1035	1.25	1.25	-	-
1.840	1.400	NATIONAL IND.	8.3	10.71	7	5000	2600	57	56	-0.01	-
4.250	2.200	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	1000	973	1.02	0.97	-0.04	-
1.350	0.770	KATL. CABLE WIRE. MANF.	14.1	0.00	3	750	1705	2.20	2.31	0.11	-
1.910	1.080	JOR. STEEL. INDUS.	22.1	0.00	3	500	370	0.78	0.74	-0.04	-
3.280	1.460	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	22.1	0.00	1	250	795	1.29	1.18	-0.11	-
2.100	1.240	UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	4.6	13.16	9	1550	2366	2.66	1.52	-1.14	-
1.580	0.890	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	17.3	0.00	6	2500	3440	1.39	1.38	-0.01	-
2.460	1.750	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.4	0.00	3	39500	2325	9.00	8.90	-0.10	-
1.460	1.080	EL - SAY READY WEAR	P	0.00	3	600	1143	1.80	1.91	0.11	-
		INTL. TOBACCO	25.6	0.00	4	2150	2342	1.09	1.09	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS						INDEX: 110.45	%CHG: -0.41	103	51963	74952	
GRAND TOTAL						INDEX: 147.35	%CHG: -0.18	153	153870	219364	

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 16/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW			SHARES	TRADED	JD	PRICE	PRICE			
0.790	0.440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	24.1	0.00	5	7150	4224	59	60	0.01	-
0.890	0.540	JOR. ZODAC PAC.	14.4	0.00	5	750	405	55	54	-0.01	-
0.930	0.700	KATL. CONSER. CENTERS	67.9	0.00	3	750	356	47	48	0.01	-
1.110	0.440	UNION INV. SOF	67.9	0.00	4	3100	651	72	71	-0.01	-
1.000	0.520	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	14	5900	2564	45	43	-0.02	-
1.100	0.480	KATL. MULT. ENG. MANCO	2	0.00	10	7200	590	60	59	-0.01	-
1.080	0.750	JORDAN STEEL	25.9	0.00	1	7000	3391	48	47	-0.01	-
0.830	0.420	IND. ENG.	2	0.00	5	2100	382	42	42	-	-
0.880	0.590	KATL. POULTRY	7	0.00	3	39500	2325	9.00	8.90	-0.10	-
1.500	0.530	MED. EAST. COMPLEX	7.7	0.00	6	1003750	682475	66	66	-	-
GRAND TOTAL						58	1078218	724493			

### THE BETTER HALF



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### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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KELIN  
RELOAP  
ZACMEE

Can you believe how fast they go?

WHAT THE CAMERAMAN USED TO PHOTOGRAPH THE AUTO RACE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: KINKY TITLE EITHER COMMON Answer: Why she didn't answer the phone - SHE WAS ON THE LINE

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## Nagano '98 Games operating costs go up

CANCUN, Mexico (R) — Total operating costs for the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics have already risen from 76 billion yen (\$684.4 million) to 94.5 billion yen (\$851 million) and could go up further, organisers have told the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Makoto Kobayashi, director general of the Nagano organising committee, told an IOC meeting on Friday that he had been worried about the impact on Games finances of the strong yen seen last year, although the yen had since depreciated somewhat against the dollar.

Kobayashi gave no new estimate of operating costs for the Games but said he was confident about receiving the 26.3 billion yen (\$236.8 million) in sponsorship revenue needed by the committee.

Olympic chiefs approved a ticketing plan put forward by the organisers, who said they expected ticket sales of around 5 billion yen (\$45 million).

The ticketing scheme sets a top price of 35,000 yen (\$315) for the opening ceremony, running down to 2,000 yen (\$18) for certain luge, curling and snowboarding events.

Kobayashi said a total 1.54 million seats would be available for the Games, which

run from February 7-22. Of those, 260,000 would be set aside for Games-related personnel, athletes and media, leaving 1.28 million tickets available for purchase.

Of these, 710,000 would be sold domestically, with a block of 100,000 at special rates for children, while 200,000 would be sold overseas and 370,000 would be earmarked for IOC sponsors, international sport federations and others.

Tickets will go on sale from early next year, he said.

Asked how Nagano, which lies three hours west of Tokyo by train, would avoid transportation glitches of the kind seen at the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, Kobayashi said 1,300 buses and the same number of cars would be available and drivers would undergo thorough training. A new, high-speed train link is also being built.

Kobayashi reiterated that Nagano would not raise the start of the downhill ski course from the 1,680 metres above sea-level currently planned.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) has been pushing to have it raised to 1,800 metres but Kobayashi said this would be illegal in Japan because it would put the start in a national park.

## Popov to resume swimming career

CANBERRA (AP) — Dual Olympic Games swimming gold medalist Alexander Popov plans to return to the water next week for the first time since he was stabbed in a Moscow street three months ago.

Popov, who won two golds and two silvers at the Atlanta Olympics, was stabbed during an altercation with a group of watermelon sellers. A knife penetrated his stomach, grazing his lungs, and put his sporting career in doubt.

Popov, a 25-year-old Russian who trains at the Australian Institute of Sport, said he is confident he will make a full recovery from his injuries.

"It won't affect me at all ... In reality it wasn't that serious," he said.

"When I woke up next morning after the operation my head was absolutely clear and I realized everything and I thought 'alright, we'll go through that and I'll get back into it again'."

Popov dismissed speculation he is considering swimming for Australia at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, but did admit he was still considering applying for Australian citizenship.

Under existing legislation, Popov could still represent Russia if he held dual nationality.

## Wihdat take over standings as Faisali lose 1st match

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Wihdat climbed atop the Premier League soccer standings following the conclusion of the 11th week of the competition Friday.

The titleholders' 6-0 crushing win over Shabab Al Hussein gave them a 24 point lead as Faisali dropped to second after their surprising 1-0 loss to Al Jazireh who managed to end the former champions' unbeaten streak.

Al Ramtha remained

third after their 2-0 win over Qadissieh. Al Hussein also remained fourth after a 2-1 win over Al Qoqazi.

The only match to end in a draw was Kufroum and Al Ahli's 2-2 tie.

The clash of the top two

teams in the Irbid

Governorate, Al Ramtha and Al Hussein, tops the five-match schedule of the 12th week.

Other than that, the top teams have relatively easy opponents as Wihdat meet Qadissieh and Al Faisali meet Shabab Al Hussein.

Wed.	20/11	Schedule of 12th week (all matches start at 2:30 p.m.)	Amman
Thurs.	21/11	Sh. Al Hussein — Faisali	Amman
Friday	22/11	Kufroum — Qoqazi	Mafraq
Friday	22/11	Qadissieh — Wihdat	Amman
Friday	22/11	Hussein — Ramtha	Irbid

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Wihdat	11	7	3	1	22	5	24
Faisali	11	6	4	1	18	7	22
Ramtha	11	6	3	2	15	8	21
Hussein	11	5	5	1	17	11	20
Ahli	11	4	5	2	22	15	17
Qadissieh	11	3	6	3	15	17	12
S. Al Hussein	11	3	4	5	11	20	10
Jazireh	11	2	3	6	5	12	9
Kufroum	11	2	3	6	8	22	6
Qoqazi	11	1	3	7	8	24	3

## Euro soccer boss apologises for racist comments

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish head of Europe's soccer body UEFA apologised on Friday for comments he made in a newspaper article referring to Africans as "Blacks".

Lennart Johansson, seeking to calm a storm of outrage over his earlier newspaper interview, told the Aftonbladet daily he was not a racist and had not intended to insult Africans.

Johansson, who is a declared candidate for the presidency of the world's ruling soccer body FIFA, was quoted in the same newspaper on Thursday as using racist terms to describe

black people, calling them a Swedish word which translates as "darky" or "blackie". Johansson used the phrase when discussing events at a meeting in Africa to discuss soccer.

Johansson was discussing the argument he and his colleagues had been having about whether the Brazilian FIFA chief should have said that the 2006 World Cup should be awarded to Africa.

Johansson, waking up on holiday in Germany to a storm of criticism, said he had been correctly quoted by the newspaper.

"I am sorry...I cannot recall swearing so many times but

that doesn't affect the contents. I cannot recall using the term "blackie" but on the other hand I can't exclude it," he said.

"I am not a racist. I apologise to anyone who interpreted it (the interview) as if I was one," he added.

The 67-year-old Swede also said he did not think the row would affect his bid to replace 81-year-old Joao Havelange as FIFA president.

"Everyone who knows me knows I am not the way I have been described. Quite the contrary. I have many coloured friends, not the least in FIFA," he said.



Charlotte Hornets' forward Anthony Mason (C) loses control of the ball as he runs into Chicago Bull defenders Dennis Rodman (91) and Michael Jordan (23) during first half NBA action in the Charlotte Coliseum. Chicago won 110-87 (Reuters photo)

## Hawks beat Heat; Bulls, Pistons win

ATLANTA (R) — Tyrone Corbin scored 22 points and Joe Dumars made six free throws in the final minute as the Atlanta Hawks kept the Miami Heat to an NBA-record 21 points in the second half on the way to an 85-77 victory Friday.

After the heat were called for an illegal defence technical foul, Christian Laettner made the free throw, pulling the Hawks within 74-73 with 2:50 left in the fourth quarter.

Corbin made a three-pointer with 1:45 to go, putting the Hawks ahead for good, 76-74. It was Atlanta's first lead since the first quarter.

"It was a great win for US," said Atlanta coach Lenny Wilkens. "We had to be ready to play mentally and physically. I didn't want them to drop their heads at halftime, the big thing was we had to defend and we did that."

In Boston, Ervin Johnson sank three free throws in the final 54 seconds lifting the Denver Nuggets to their first win in Boston this decade, an 82-20 defeat of the Celtics.

Johnson sank a pair of free throws with 54 seconds remaining to give Denver an 81-80 lead. After Boston's Rick Fox missed a three-pointer with 36 seconds left, Johnson added another free throw with 1.2 seconds remaining.

Dale Ellis led the Nuggets with 36 points.

In Charlotte, Michael Jordan scored 38 points and Scottie Pippen added 17 points and seven assists as the Chicago Bulls continued to dominate opponents with a 110-87 dismantling of the Charlotte Hornets.

Jordan, who always plays well in his home state, hit 15-of-25 of shots in just 29 minutes. He also keyed a second-quarter run before sitting out the entire fourth quarter.

"I felt good tonight," Jordan said. "I came out aggressive and looked for my shot and it felt good."

In Detroit, Grant Hill scored five of his 27 points

in a key third-quarter run and Joe Dumars added 15 of his 25 in the second half to lead the surprising Detroit Pistons to a 95-84 victory over the Washington Bullets.

"I thought it was the best we've executed, offensively," Pistons coach Doug Collins said. "We went into the post, got double-teamed and moved the ball. We rebounded the ball and we didn't turn it over."

At New Jersey, ex-net Kenny Anderson scored 22 points, including a pair of free throws during a decisive fourth-quarter run, as the Portland Trail Blazers kept New Jersey winless with a 93-85 victory.

Clifford Robinson scored 21 points, Isaiah Rider added 15 and Gary Trent had 10 for Portland.

Shawn Bradley and Kendall Gill each scored 16 points and Jayson Williams added 13 for New Jersey, which fell to 0-5 under new coach John Calipari.

In Philadelphia, Bobby Phillips scored 26 points and Terrell Brandon had eight of his 24 in a 14-0 fourth-quarter run as the Cleveland Cavaliers posted a 105-89 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Brandon, who also dished out 13 assists, extended a two-point lead and began the decisive run with a three-point play and capped it with a three-point field goal to make it 103-87 with 62 seconds remaining.

"After I missed my first three shots, I asked coach if I was doing anything wrong mechanically," said Brandon. "He said I wasn't, so I went out and I hit my next shot."

Derrick McKey and Fred Hoiberg each scored 15 points for the Pacers.

At Utah, Karl Malone scored 21 points and John Stockton handed out a season-high 18 assists as the Utah Jazz defeated the Vancouver Grizzlies for the fifth straight time, 104-96.

Greg Ostertag had career highs with 16 points and 20 rebounds and Jeff Hornacek also had 16 points for Utah.

Blue Edwards scored 23 points, Lawrence Moten, 21 and Bryant Reeves had 19 for Vancouver.

In Los Angeles, Eddie Jones scored a career-high 32 points and Elden Campbell added 20 points and 10 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers remained undefeated at home with a 107-100 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Lakers topped the 100-point mark for just the second time this season in winning their fourth home game. Byron Scott added 19 points.

In Sacramento, Mitch Richmond scored 12 of his season-high 30 points in the fourth quarter and Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had nine of his 22 in a key third-quarter run as the Sacramento Kings defeated the Milwaukee Bucks, 103-99.

Cortis Williamson added a season-high 22 points for Sacramento, which won for the first time in three games and improved to 3-5.

### NBA RESULTS

Denver	82	Boston	80
Atlanta	85	Miami	77
Detroit	95	Washington	84
Portland	93	New Jersey	85
Cleveland	105	Philadelphia	89
Chicago	110	Charlotte	87
Indiana	93	San Antonio	78
Utah	104	Vancouver	96
LA Lakers	107	LA Clippers	100
Sacramento	103	Milwaukee	99

## Italy's Donadoni to re-sign with U.S. club

NEW YORK (AP) — Italian midfielder Roberto Donadoni has agreed to a two-year contract extension with the New York-New Jersey Metrostars, a major credibility boost for the United States Major League soccer. Metrostars general manager Charlie Stillitano said Friday.

The deal, of which terms were not released, also includes a provision for Donadoni to continue with the team as assistant coach in charge of youth development should he decide to retire.

"After two years we'll evaluate the situation to see if he is (Franco) Baresi-like, to see if he can and wants to play at 35."

He's a pro and wants to make sure he can play."

Speculation in the European media, particularly in the Italian press, has mounted since the final stages of MLS' inaugural season that Donadoni would return to Italy, most likely his former club AC Milan.

"It is not an easy decision," Donadoni was quoted in Friday's editions of USA Today. "When I make a decision, I have to be totally convinced. In some ways, I feel like a pioneer, but I also feel a deeper responsibility."

"I am making an act of faith in American soccer, and in the metrostars and their management. My first year here has been a positive experience. True, we didn't win the champi-

onship, but it was the eventual winners, DC United, who eliminated us, and we went out with our heads high."

Besides AC Milan, Real Madrid also had tried to woo the Italian playmaker.

"The league does the actual work (on the contract). They were just very cooperative and worked very well," Stillitano said.

"So much (of Donadoni's decision) came down to local lifestyle and more importantly he believed club had the ability not only to attract players, but that we were moving in the right direction, setting up a youth program, and that we have a long-term goal to be one of the great clubs in the world."

Stillitano said that with the Metrostars' tour of Colombia scheduled for later this month cancelled due to scheduling changes in the South American country, he will accompany Donadoni to Italy in December to sign the deal.

"Sunil Gulati (MLS deputy commissioner) and his agent have come to terms," Stillitano said. "They just have to draw the papers up, get them over to him and get it done."

"It gives enormous credibility to us as a club and a league, not only to attract a player like Donadoni but keep him here," Stillitano said.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Schwarz to join Sainz at Ford

LONDON (R) — Ford said on Friday they had signed German driver Armin Schwarz to their World Rally Championship team for 1997. Schwarz, 33, will join Spaniard Carlos Sainz, twice world champion, in a new team run by former British rally champion and Ford driver Malcolm Wilson. "We believe Malcolm is the man to go out and do the job," said Ford director Martin Whitaker. "He's a keen businessman and competitor. I think it gives Ford motorsport some teeth again."

### Brazil defeat Cameroon 2-1

CURITIBA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's national team easily faced down a young Cameroon team 2-1 in an exhibition game. Marked by violent play by Cameroon on a rain soaked field, Brazil showed that even without Ronaldinho, Mauro Silva and Cafu they remain a formidable team to beat. Brazil started scoring early in the first half with a goal off a penalty kick by Giovanni in the 13th minute. Led by Oseas, Brazil kept up the pressure through the first half but failed to score. Late in the first half, Cameroon's Sieue was expelled with a yellow card for faults off of Cesar Prates and Oseas. Then early in the second half Djarninha scored a second goal off a pass by Denilson in the 47th minute. Despite a number of excellent plays by Brazil, Cameroon's goalie Njeukan played an impressive game saving his team from an even worse defeat.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSH ©1996 Tannan Hirsch Services, Inc.			
READ THEM AND WIN			
Both vulnerable. South deals			
NORTH		SOUTH	
A 8 4	A 8 4	A 8 4	A 8 4
K Q 10 6	K Q 10 6	K Q 10 6	K Q 10 6
Q J 10 9 2	Q J 10 9 2	Q J 10 9 2	Q J 10 9 2
A K 7	A K 7	A K 7	A K 7
The bidding:			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: Five of a club.			
Bridge would be a game for children if it were played with glass cards. However, the expert technician is often able to draw so many inferences from the bidding and play that, in all intents and purposes, every hand is an open book. Here's an example.			
Since North-South were playing a 10-18 point no-trump range, the ten and the five-card suit in the North hand just barely satisfied an			

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**PHILADELPHIA**

**Philadelphia 1**  
Bruce Willis ... in  
**12 Monkeys**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**Philadelphia 2**  
Tom Cruise ... in  
**MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**CINEMA TEL:699238**  
**PLAZA**

Leslie Nelson ... in  
**SPY HARD**  
(In Dolby stereo)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

**CINEMA TEL:677420**  
**CONCORD**

**CONCORD "1"**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
(In Dolby stereo)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45

**CONCORD "2"**  
**DISCLOSURE**  
**UP CLOSE & PERSONAL**  
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:15, 10:30

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## Player profiles

by Profiles of eight players who have played for next week's World Championship in Hannover (R.S.)

1. Ranking: 1, age 25, right-hand, career singles titles: 1, doubles titles: 1. San Francisco, Calif. (U.S.).

2. Ranking: 1, age 25, left-hand, career singles titles: 1, doubles titles: 1. San Francisco, Calif. (U.S.).

3. Ranking: 1, age 25, left-hand, career singles titles: 1, doubles titles: 1. San Francisco, Calif. (U.S.).

4. Ranking: 1, age 25, left-hand, career singles titles: 1, doubles titles: 1. San Francisco, Calif. (U.S.).

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15. Ranking: 1, age 25, left-hand, career singles titles: 1, doubles titles: 1. San Francisco, Calif. (U.S.).

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22. Ranking: 1, age 25, left-hand, career singles titles: 1, doubles titles: 1. San Francisco, Calif. (U.S.).

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53. Ranking: 1, age 25, left-hand, career singles titles: 1, doubles titles: 1. San Francisco, Calif. (U.S.).



## Player profiles for ATP World Championship

BONN (R) — Profiles of the eight players who have qualified for next week's ATP Tour World Championship in Hanover:

### Pete Sampras (U.S.)

World ranking 1, age 25, right-hander, career singles titles 43 (1996 titles 7).  
1996 singles titles: San Jose, Memphis, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Indianapolis, U.S. Open, Basel.  
Year in review: Sampras has now joined Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe as the only players to finish at top of rankings for four (or more) consecutive years — 1993-1996. Won seven titles in eight finals. In addition to U.S. Open title, reached French Open semifinals. In May, lost close friend and coach Tim Llikson who died of brain cancer.

### Michael Chang (U.S.)

No. 2, 24, right-hander, 26 (3) titles.  
1996 singles titles: Indian Wells, Washington, Los Angeles.  
Joined Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic as top 10 finishers on tour for fifth consecutive year and will finish in top three for first time in career. Opened year

by reaching final of the Australian Open for first time (lost to Boris Becker) and finished off Grand Slam season by reaching first final of U.S. Open (lost to Sampras). He also reached final of last year's championship in Frankfurt (lost to Becker).

### Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)

No. 3, 22, right-hander, 11 (4) titles.  
1996 singles titles: Adelaide, Prague, French Open, Lyon.  
This year achieved career-best of four singles titles in nine finals and also five doubles titles. Made biggest breakthrough of career by winning singles and doubles titles at French Open, the first Russian to win a Grand Slam title. Showed consistency on all surfaces and is appearing in second consecutive World Championship.

### Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)

No. 4, 25, left-hander, 17 (5) titles.  
1996 singles titles: Zagreb, Dubai, Milan, Rotterdam, Moscow.  
Big-serving Croat broke his old record of most aces on ATP Tour. Began first

three months of season by reaching seven finals in nine tournaments, best stretch of his career. Reached Wimbledon quarter-finals and U.S. Open semifinals (lost to Sampras).

### Thomas Muster (Austria)

No. 5, 29, left-hander, 42 (7) titles.  
1996 singles titles: Mexico City, Estoril, Barcelona, Monte Carlo, Rome, Stuttgart-Outdoor, Bogota.  
Strong clay-court player enjoyed biggest highlight of season on February when he became the second-oldest player to rank number one for first time. Held top spot for one week and then again for five weeks from March 11 to April 14. Reached U.S. Open quarterfinals but went out fourth round of French Open. Suffered nagging hip injury in recent Stuttgart and Paris tournaments. Appearing in third World Championship.

### Boris Becker (Germany)

No. 6, 28, (29 on November 22), right-hander, 48 (4) titles.  
1996 singles titles: Australian Open, Queen's, Vienna, Stuttgart-Indoor.  
Started the year brilliantly with defeat of Chang in Australian Open final, his first Grand Slam title since the 1991 Australian Open. Withdrew from French Open because of thigh muscle injury and had to abandon Wimbledon campaign in third-round after tearing a tendon in his right wrist. Missed 10 weeks but has bounced back to form on indoor courts beating Sampras over five sets in final of last month's Stuttgart tournament. Defending



Thomas Muster

champion at championship.

### Andre Agassi (U.S.)

No. 7, 26, right-hander, 34 (3) titles.  
1996 singles titles: Key Biscayne, Atlanta Olympics, Cincinnati.  
Began the year well by reaching semifinals of Australian Open and became the first American to win Olympic gold medal in singles since 1924. Held the No. 1 ranking for two weeks (Jan 29-Feb 5) and reached semifinals of U.S. Open (lost to Chang). Missed last year's championship because of pulled

chest muscle.

### Richard Krajicek (Netherlands)

No. 8, 24, right-hander, 10 (1) titles.  
1996 singles title: Wimbledon.  
Has won only one title this year but it was the biggest of his career — Wimbledon. He lost only one set during fortnight. Finished in top 10 for the first time since 1992. After first-round defeat by Stefan Edberg at U.S. Open, retired with a right knee injury in Davis Cup tie v New Zealand and in quarterfinals in Singapore.

## Graf easily beats Rubin to advance in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Steffi Graf unleashed an impressive performance in a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Chanda Rubin Friday night in the quarterfinals of the \$450,000 Advanta Championships Friday.

Graf, the top seed and defending champion, will face unseeded American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Barbara Paulus of Austria, in the semifinals.

In other quarterfinal matches, third-seed Jana Novotna used a variety of shots and approaches to blunt hard-hitting American Anne Miller 6-3, 6-0. Novotna's opponent in the semifinals will be Yayuk Basuki, who defeated local Lisa Raymond 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Earlier Friday, Graf's father, Peter, was released from jail in Mannheim, Germany, where he had been held for the last 15 months on charges of tax evasion.

"Obviously I'm very happy for my father and my family," Graf said Friday. "I wish I could have been home, but I have two more weeks of tennis."

Graf said she would return to Germany after playing in next week's year-ending WTA Tour Championships, where she is also the defending champion.

Against Rubin, Graf sailed through the first set in 19 minutes and didn't allow Rubin a game-point opportunity until the fourth game of the second set. Rubin held serve for the first time in the match to win that game, but couldn't manage a break point on Graf's serve the



German tennis star Steffi Graf hits a return to Chanda Rubin of the United States, during their match in the quarterfinals of the Advanta Championships at the DuPont Pavilion at Villanova University. Graf beat Rubin 6-0 6-3 (Reuters photo)

rest of the match.

Graf said she wasn't surprised she was able to play so well after a long layoff. She had played in only one tournament since the U.S. Open due to a left knee injury.

The veteran Novotna dropped the first three games to Miller before winning the next 12 games in a row, negating the 19-year-old's power from the base-

line by utilizing her customary slices, drop shots and net approaches.

Miller appeared to have Novotna broken in the fifth game of the second set, but Novotna's double-fault was overruled by the chair umpire. Visibly affected, Miller hit her next two returns out, and Novotna went on to hold serve and then won the match a game later.

## Veteran boxer laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T) — Former Middle East boxing champion Adeb Dasouqi was laid to rest Saturday, family members said.

Mr. Dasouqi, was one of the leading boxers in Jordan and the region, having won the Palestinian championship in the 1940's before moving to Jordan where he

was instrumental in the development of the sport.

Mr. Dasouqi was also behind the rise of a generation of leading boxers who won gold medals in the 1957 Arab Games in Beirut.

Mr. Dasouqi, who died at the age of 87, is survived by four sons.

## Woodies lose but enter doubles finals as favorites

HARTFORD (R) — Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde lost their final round-Rubin match Friday, but still will be going to the Phoenix/ATP Tour doubles championship semifinals as the favorites.

The top-ranked Woodies, the dominant team in the world since they began full-time partnership in 1991, fell to American Alex O'Brien and Canadian Sebastian Lareau, 4-6 6-3 7-5.

"Maybe, it's a good omen," said Woodbridge, "because the last time we won this event (1992) we also went into the semifinals with a loss."

The final four is now set for Saturday, with the Woodies (2-1) playing Scott Connell of Canada and Byron Black of Zimbabwe (2-0) in one semifinal. In the other bracket, O'Brien and Lareau (2-1) will face David MacPherson of Australia and American Trevor Kronemann (1-2).

Trevor and Kronemann sneaked in when the team of Daniel Nestor of Canada and Mark Knowles of the Bahamas was forced to pull out of their matches with Black and Connell Friday night due to Nestor's rib injury.

The Woodies were up 5-2 in the third set before folding. "All I was thinking about then was holding my serve," said O'Brien, "then we'd see what happens."

O'Brien held for 3-5, then Woodforde was serving for the match. Three straight volley errors by Woodforde gave O'Brien and Lareau the opening they needed and they ran out the match by winning the last five games.

"I noticed that those guys (the Woodies) have a tendency to get tight when they're ahead," said O'Brien. "It happened the same way in Cincinnati this year, and we came from behind to beat them."

Fourth-ranked Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, who were beaten by the

Woodies the night before after squandering five match-points, suffered another damaging setback in the opening Friday match.

The Dutchmen fell to previously-winless Libor Pimek of Belgium and Byron Talbot of South Africa, 6-7 (7-5), 7-5, 6-4.

The tall and slender Pimek, guilty of some frustrating errors the day before, made amends with steady serves and crushing volleys against the Dutch Tandem.

"Even though we knew going in we could not qualify for the semifinals, we just wanted to put on a good show," said Talbot. "And winning a few extra dollars didn't hurt."

"Libor thought he played terrible Thursday night, but he was the man today. He played some big points off his serve."

"This is a nice way to end the year."

The Dutchmen didn't feel they played that badly. "We should have won yesterday

(against the Woodies) and today we played a team that had nothing to lose."

Kronemann and MacPherson lost one match point at 6-5 on Bjorkman's serve but won the final tiebreaker decisively. "I thought we played a great tiebreaker," said Kronemann, who served out the match. "It's been a long time since we won a match 7-6 in the third."

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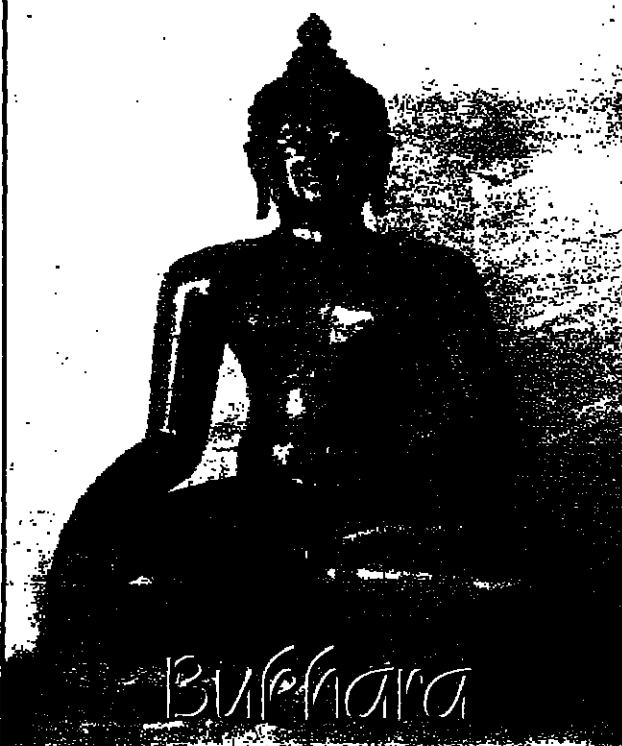
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